



Handbook

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Introduction

The United States Volleyball Association (USVBA) is the national governing body of the sport in the United States and is recognized by the Federation International de Volleyball and the United States Olympic Committee. The vision of the USVBA is to be acknowledged as the world leader in volleyball.

The Bayou Region Volleyball Association (BRVA) is a “Regional Volleyball Association” (RVA) of USA Volleyball. It is incorporated as a legal entity and is a “subsidiary” member organization of the National Governing Body (NGB) or USAV.

To aid the USAV in accomplishing the vision of becoming the world leader in volleyball, The Bayou Regional Volleyball Association serves as a grassroots functionary for the USAV and individually and collectively with other USAV member organization serves as a catalyst for USAV functions.

History of the BRVA

2001

The Bayou Regional Volleyball Association took its place among the many existing Regional Volleyball Associations (RVA’s) which make up the Regional Operations Division (ROD) of USA Volleyball. The new regional consists of the entire state of Louisiana, an area formally included in the Delta Region, but like the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, a small but significant area of an originally much larger geographic territory.

The birth of the Delta Region, and ultimately the Bayou Regional Volleyball Association took place at the 1978 USAV National Championship Tournament in El Paso, Texas. Arkansas and Louisiana from the Southwest Region was merged with Mississippi, Alabama and West Tennessee from the Southern Region to form the Delta Region. Mr. Bob Morgan was appointed commissioner of the original Delta Region.

At the beginning of the 1982 season Carl Roberts, of Jacksonville, Arkansas, became the 2nd commissioner of the Delta Region. With the help of his wife Barbara, and because of their exhaustive efforts, the region grew into the successful region it is today. It is due to their commitment to the region and USA Volleyball that Carl and Barbara’s efforts were recognized, resulting in USA Volleyball awarding them individually with the George J. Fisher Leader in Volleyball Award, named in honor of the 1st President of the USVBA (1928-1952) and a founding member of the organization. Whatever future success members of the Bayou Region Volleyball Association may enjoy, a great deal of gratitude is owed Carl and Barbara Roberts, now of Waycross, Georgia.

And success is what former Delta Region, and now Bayou Regional Volleyball Association, teams and clubs are used to. In addition to winning many of the Delta Region Championships in both adult and junior categories, junior teams from Louisiana have regularly competed well for the National Championship. We’ve had teams finish 2nd in 1987 (15’s), 5th in 1996 (18’s, 16’s & 14’s), 2nd in 1999 (12’s), and won a Girls Junior National Championship in 1998 (Cajunland 14’s).

2002

The inaugural 2001-'02 season saw a membership total of 1100. Even though one of the smallest of the USA Regions, teams from the Bayou Regional competed with largest and best, winning one Gold Medal (Volleyball Baton Rouge 15 Black) and 3 Bronze Medals (Cajunland 13's, Cajunland 14's & Cajunland 15's) at the 2002 USA Junior Girls National Championships. In addition, Allie Blanche (VBR 15 Black) was named Most Valuable Player while Michele Ashmore (VBR 15 Black), Lauren Cross (VBR 15 Black), Rachel Poolson (Cajunland 15's) and Mary Claire Tucker (Cajunland 15's) were named to the Girls' 15-under Club All-Tournament Team.

USA Volleyball selected Louis Puissegur, Jr. (Cajunland VBC) as the recipient of the 2002 Outstanding Program Director Award. The Region had two adult teams at the Adult National Championships, Outsiders (Men's A) and Quest IV (Women's AA).

2003

Membership went over the 1200 mark for the first time in the 2003 season, fueled mostly by Junior Girls Programs. The region once again sent numerous representatives to the USA Girls Junior Olympic Championships, with teams competing in the Open Division for the first time and another high finish with Cajunland 15 Club taking the Silver Medal and placing three players on the 15-under Club All-Tournament Team, Emily Clements, Dayna LeBlanc, and Hayley Childress.

2003 saw the formation of a regional High Performance Program for the first time with Mike Barnes as the Director. Made up of all-stars from different clubs in the region, players attended a week long High Performance camp in July before the Bayou Youth team competed at and brought home the Gold Medal from the 2003 Volley Classic High Performance Tournament against other H-P programs from around the country. Bayou came back from a 2-0 deficit to defeat Aloha Region in a thrilling 5 set Championship Final, 19-25, 22-25, 25-19, 25-22, 16-14. In the Adult Division, Quest IV (9th-Women's AA) represented the region at the USAV Adult National Championships.

2004

Membership in the Bayou Regional continued to increase, this season going over the 1350 mark. This year saw the first Adult Regional Championship with Tulane VBC winning. Instrumental in increasing adult participation was Adult Male Player Representative Bryan Dardar. In addition to motivating players to register with the Regional, Bryan also successfully lobbied to provide funding for adult teams to attend the USAV Adult National Championships. Three adult male teams participated, Court Jesters BB (19th overall, 4th Silver, Court Jester B (48th overall) and Forever Young 50's (25th overall).

In the officiating ranks, the region saw the addition of 1 new Junior National Referee, Jeff Brown, a new National Referee candidate, Doug Couvillon, a new National Scorekeeper, John Cline and a new International Scorekeeper, Malcolm Grimes. The region continues to provide opportunities for individuals interested in developing a career in officiating.

Junior participation continues to be the backbone of the Regional. Junior membership continued to increase as new clubs formed. For the second consecutive year a Regional High Performance program

was held. In addition numerous teams competed at the annual US Girls Junior National Championships (Houston, TX). Participating clubs/teams included Cajunland 12's (11th), Blue Crab 12's (37th), Cajunland 13's (27th), Southern Spikers 13 Black (45th), Cajunland 14 Open Division (24th), Volleyball Baton Rouge 14's (26th), Cajunland 15 Open Division (17th – Flight 1 Champion), VBR 15's (22nd), VIA-LA 16's (41st-Flight 6 Champion), Cajunland 17's (13th), & Crescent City Jrs. 18's (29th-Flight 3 Champion).

2005

The season included the great news the 2006 USAV Adult National Championships would be held in New Orleans creating a wonderful catalyst for the increase of adult membership and ended with the city of New Orleans being devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Membership in the BRVA increased to over 1500 and included the inaugural Baton Rouge Blastoff Jr. Tournament.

In the Adult Division, Court Jester's again sent teams (2) to the USAV Open Championships (Denver, CO). Court Jesters B finished 39th overall, Court Jesters BB finished 29th (2nd Bronze). The Junior Division sent teams in all age categories to the 2005 USA Junior Olympic Girls' Volleyball Championships held in Salt Lake City, UT.

2006

In spite of the devastation, the lost of at least 3 junior clubs and the uncertainty which engulfed the region, junior clubs and adults still managed to form teams and compete. However membership in the BRVA declined 9.5% to a total of 1363.

Although there was the loss of a couple of small junior tournaments, the regional did see the inaugural Red River Classic held in Shreveport.

In November '05 USA Volleyball recommitted and The 2006 USAV Adult National Championships was held at the end of May'06 in New Orleans.

Fifteen adult teams (the most ever by the BRVA) competed in the championship tournament and two BRVA teams' won National Championships, Women's BB-Starfish & Women's U-Volley BB/B–Lady Court Jesters. Adult men's team who competed included: Men's BB– Court Jesters Hurricanes (5th) & Court Jesters Refugees (33rd); Men's B– Court Jesters Rescue (5th) & Court Jesters Hydra (10th); Men's 50– Outsiders (10th) & Forever Young 50's (17th); Men's 55– Forever Young 55's (13th); Men's U-Volley– Court Jester Katrina Rescue (5th).

Adult women's teams included: Women's A– Hammond Fossils (17th) & Ignatius (44th); Women's B– Lady Court Jesters (5th); Women's 50– Unknowns (7th); Women's 60– Dixie Volley Chicks (4th).

In the Junior Division, the region sent teams which competed in all age divisions at the USAV Jr. National Championships.

In the Officials' Division the region gained a new National Scorekeeper- Darlene Taylor, a new Jr. National Referee – Darlene Taylor and welcomed the new Referee Chair for the region – Doug Couvillon.

Competing and winning championships is not all what the Bayou Regional Volleyball Association is about. Because those who choose to play, coach and watch volleyball know it has many positive things to offer those who participate. Whether a gifted athlete or a beginner, volleyball is fun! For those who play and coach, it is not only good exercise but also involves team cooperation and spirit and builds lasting friendships.

Meritorious Service Awards

The Robert L. Lindsay Meritorious Service Award is designed to recognize individuals who have made a significant contribution to volleyball at the regional level. Each regional is allowed to recommend up to five individuals each year to USAV. Former recipients are not eligible to receive this award from the same member Organization.

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|------|--------------------------------------|
| 2017 | Don Landry |
| 2016 | Millicent Van Norden |
| 2015 | Floyd P. 'Topo' Frilot |
| 2014 | Stewart Sheng & Peter Hickman |
| 2013 | Roger Barba |
| 2012 | Warren Dufrene |
| 2011 | Maggie Millet |
| 2010 | No award presented |
| 2009 | Kenneth Marrocolli |
| 2008 | Angelle Simms & David Dufrene |
| 2007 | William Genemaras & Karin Genemaras |
| 2006 | Darlene Taylor & Scott Clause |
| 2005 | Betsy Becker & Greg Castillo |
| 2004 | Malcolm Grimes |
| 2003 | Michael Barnes & Bryan Dardar |
| 2002 | Louis Puissegur, Jr. & Jimmy Miranda |
| 2001 | Andrew Beyer & Lee Feinswog |

Bylaws

ARTICLE 1 Bayou Region Defined

- 1.1 The Bayou Region Volleyball Association shall consist of the territory within the state boundaries of Louisiana.

ARTICLE 2 Vision and Purpose

- 2.1 Vision. The vision of the Bayou Region Volleyball Association (hereafter referred to as the Corporation) is to be acknowledged as the statewide leader in the sport of volleyball.
- 2.2 Purpose. The purpose for which this Corporation is organized is to foster national and international volleyball competition. In furtherance
 - 2.2.1 To teach the sport of volleyball to children and adults by holding clinics conducted by qualified instructors in schools, playgrounds and parks;
 - 2.2.2 To provide practice volleyball sessions, classroom lectures, seminars and panel discussions through which selected trainees may be schooled in competitive coaching, playing, officiating and scouting techniques;
 - 2.2.3 To foster and conduct area, state, regional and national amateur volleyball competitions;
 - 2.2.4 To act as the official representative of the United States Volleyball Association within the area designated as Bayou Region;
 - 2.2.5 To select and train suitable candidates in the techniques of volleyball in national and international competition and thereby improve the caliber of candidates representing the United States in Olympic, Pan American and World Game competitions;
 - 2.2.6 To foster and conduct amateur volleyball programs between the United States and foreign nations for the exchange and training of suitable candidates in the techniques and practices of volleyball in countries other than their own.

ARTICLE 3 Powers

- 3.1 This corporation shall have the powers as are necessary or convenient to enable it to carry out the purposes for which it is formed including the power:

- 3.1.1 To receive and hold money or other property, tangible or intangible, real or personal, for any of the purposes of the corporation, from whatever source derived.
- 3.1.2 To borrow money and to mortgage or pledge real or personal property as security therefore, to use, borrow or expend the funds and property of the corporation.
- 3.1.3 To conduct its affairs in Louisiana, and in any other state of the United States, in the District of Columbia, the territories and possessions of the United States and in foreign countries. The corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, carry out any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law) or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law).

ARTICLE 4 Offices

- 4.1 The principal and corporate offices of the Corporation in the State of Louisiana shall be located in the town of Arabi in St. Bernard Parish
- 4.2 The Corporation may have such other offices as the Board of Directors may designate or as the business of the Corporation may require from time to time.

ARTICLE 5 Membership

- 5.1 The Board of Directors may from time to time establish one or more classes of membership and prescribe the qualifications thereof. The Board of Directors may also abolish or change the qualifications for any class of membership.
- 5.2 The Board of Directors shall also determine annual membership fees for any or all of the classes of membership established.
- 5.3 Membership in the Corporation does not warrant voting rights in the Corporation.

ARTICLE 6 Board of Directors

- 6.1 Membership on the Board of Directors shall be open to all persons who are interested in furthering the purposes of this Corporation as expressed in Article II of these Bylaws.

- 6.2 The Board of Directors shall also include male and female volunteers in the following appointed positions. These appointments shall be made by the Commissioner and shall be subject to approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the existing Board. Appointed members shall serve for two years or until a successor is duly appointed.
- 6.3 Composition and Authority. All corporate powers and affairs of this Corporation shall be governed by a Board of Directors, whose members are selected without prejudice. Each Director shall be entitled to one vote. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of volunteers who are current members of the organization in the following elected positions:
- 6.3.1 Commissioner, who is elected in the year prior to the quadrennial by majority vote of all registered adult members of the region and the existing sitting members of the Board of Directors for a four-year term.
 - 6.3.2 Associate Commissioner, who will be the previously serving commissioner or in the absence of one, appointed in accordance with Article 6.10.
 - 6.3.3 Adult Male Player Representative, who is elected in odd years by the adult male player members of the Regional for a two-year term.
 - 6.3.4 Adult Female Player Representative, who is elected in even years by the adult female player members of the Regional for a two-year term.
 - 6.3.5 Secretary, who is elected every two years in the same manner as the Commissioner.
 - 6.3.6 Treasurer, who is elected in the same manner as the Commissioner, to serve a term concurrent with the Commissioner.
 - 6.3.7 Directors of Junior Development, who are elected every two years by the adult members of the Regional who are registered in either one or more of the following categories: Club Director, club administrator, coach (head, assistant, etc.) team representative, trainer and/or chaperone.
 - 6.3.7.1. Director of Junior Female Development
 - 6.3.7.2. Director Junior Male Development
 - 6.3.8 At-Large, who is elected every three years in the same manner as the Commissioner.
 - 6.3.9 Director of Outdoor Development
 - 6.3.10 Referee Chair

6.3.11 Scorekeeper Chair

6.3.12 Director of Coaching Development

6.4 **Nominations:** A Nominating Committee consisting of three members, chaired by the Associate Commissioner and two members of the Board of Directors whom the Associate Commissioner shall appoint, shall compile a slate of candidates for each elected office to be filled. Whenever possible, consent of the candidates to run should be gained before they are placed on a ballot. A list of those persons nominated for offices should be delivered to all eligible voters and members of the Board of Directors no less than fourteen days prior to the date on which an election shall be held. Nominations will be accepted from the floor, when elections are conducted during a legally held meeting.

6.5 Elections

6.5.1 The Nominating Committee shall supervise and conduct all elections.

6.5.2 Elections shall be conducted by ballot.

6.5.3 Each currently registered adult BRVA member will have one vote in elections in which they are entitled to vote. No voting member will have more than one vote in elections in which they are entitled to vote.

6.5.4 All Directors will take office on September 1 of the year elected.

6.6 Powers of the Board of Directors

6.6.1 **General Statement.** The Board of Directors, in furtherance of the specific and primary purposes of this nonprofit Corporation, as expressed in its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, may perform such acts as are necessary to exercise the powers of this nonprofit Corporation. Generally, it may do or perform, or cause to be done or performed, any act, which the Corporation lawfully may do or perform in the furtherance of its purposes as stated in its Articles of Incorporations and these Bylaws.

6.6.2 **Policy Governing the Exercise of Powers by the Board of Directors.** It shall be the policy of this corporation to budget and disburse each year sufficient funds to carry out its purposes as stated in its Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws. As this Corporation is not organized, nor shall it be operated, for pecuniary gain or profit and no part of the net earnings of this non-profit corporation shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual, it also shall be the policy of this Corporation that this Corporation shall not:

- 6.6.2.1. Lend any part of its income or principal without adequate security or at unreasonable rates of interest to donors, to members of the families of donors or to corporations controlled by donors or to members of donors' families;
- 6.6.2.2. Make any part of this corporation's services available, on a preferential basis, to donors, or to members of donors' families, or to corporations controlled by donors or members of donors' families;
- 6.6.2.3. Make any substantial purchase of securities or other property from donors, members of donors' families, or corporations controlled by donors or members of donors' families, for more than adequate consideration;
- 6.6.2.4. Sell any substantial part of the property of this corporation to donors, members of donors' families, or corporations controlled by donors or members of donors' families for less than adequate consideration;
- 6.6.2.5. Engage in any transaction which results in a substantial diversion of the income or corpus of this corporation to donors, members of donors' families, or corporations controlled by donors or members of donors' families for less than adequate consideration; Participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on

6.7 Meetings of the Board of Directors

- 6.7.1 Regular Meetings. There shall be one regular meetings of the Board of Directors each year. The Annual Meeting shall beheld sometime after August 1 and prior to the start of the upcoming season, at which time annual reports shall be received. Other business shall be transacted as may be properly brought before a legal special meeting.
- 6.7.2 Special Meetings: Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the Commissioner, or by any five Directors, provided that at least fourteen days written notice is given.

6.8 Notice of Meetings of the Board of Directors

- 6.8.1 Notice of any meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given by the Commissioner, or by the Secretary at the Commissioner's request, and shall specify the place where, and the date and hour when, the meeting will be held.

Notices must be in writing and may be delivered either personally at least five days before the meeting, excluding the day of the meeting, or by first class mail, postage prepaid, placed in the mail at least seven days before the meeting, excluding the day of the meeting, to the address of record for the Director.

- 6.8.2 Any Director may make written waiver of notice before, at or after a meeting, and such a waiver shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice. The waiver shall be filed with the person who has been designated to act as Secretary of the meeting, who shall enter it into the records of the meeting. Appearance at a meeting is deemed a waiver unless it is solely for asserting the illegality of the meeting.
- 6.9 Quorum. In order to transact business, there shall be a Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors. Directors may vote by written proxy ballot.
- 6.10 Removal of Directors. Any Director may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the present and voting Board of Directors at any special or annual meeting at which a quorum is present whenever, in its judgment, the best interests of the Corporation would be served thereby
- 6.11 Filing Vacancies in the Board of Directors. A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification or otherwise, may be filled by the Commissioner for the unexpired portion of the term. Such replacement shall be subject to approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Director
- 6.12 Compensation of Directors. Directors shall serve without annual compensation.
 - 6.12.1 With the approval of two-thirds majority of the present and voting Board of Directors, A Director may be appointed to fill any vacant positions as outlined in BRVA Operating Code, Article IV – Professional Staff.
 - 6.12.2 A Director appointed and approved for a Professional Staff position as outlined in the Operating Code, Article IV – Professional Staff, is entitled to the compensation associated with said position.
 - 6.12.3 A Director appointed and approved for a Professional Staff position may not vote on any issue directly affecting said
- 6.13 Indemnification of Directors. No person who now is, or who later becomes, a Director of this nonprofit Corporation shall be personally liable to its creditors for any indebtedness or liability, and any and all creditors of this nonprofit Corporation shall look only to the assets of this Corporation for payment.

ARTICLE 7 Committees

7.1 Standing Committees

7.1.1 Executive Committee. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of this Corporation that shall consist of the elected Directors and be chaired by the Commissioner. The Executive Committee shall:

7.1.1.1. Have the authority of the Board of Directors and act in its stead in the interval between meetings.

7.1.1.2. Have and exercise such control over the affairs and business of the Corporation as may be directed to it from time to time by the Board of Directors, except such matters which, by these Bylaws or by the laws of the State of Louisiana, must be reserved to the Board of Directors or to the membership of the Corporation or both.

7.1.1.3. Serve as the Ethics and Eligibility Committee of the Corporation.

7.1.2 Budget and Finance Committee. There shall be a Budget and Finance Committee chaired by the Treasurer and consisting of two other members of the Board of Directors appointed by the Commissioner. The Committee shall:

7.1.2.1. Oversee the preparation of an annual budget to be presented and approved prior to the beginning of the fiscal year of the Corporation

7.1.2.2. Present an annual report of the financial position of the Corporation at the Annual Meeting.

7.2 Other Committees

7.2.1 The Board of Directors, or the Commissioner, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall have the authority to appoint other such committees as may be deemed appropriate.

7.2.2 The Chair of such committees may be appointed or elected from its members as the Board of Directors or Commissioner may determine.

ARTICLE 8 Professional Staff

8.1 The Board of Directors may create and hire one or more staff positions to carry out the powers of this Corporation.

8.2 A position of Registrar is created to register and maintain said records and files of all members within of the Bayou Regional Volleyball Association

8.2.1 The Board shall appoint a registrar with contracted terms approved by the Board.

ARTICLE 9 Assets

9.1 All drafts drawn against the Corporation's accounts shall be signed by the Commissioner or Treasurer or by such other person or persons as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.

9.2 Deeds, mortgages, leases and contracts may be signed by the Commissioner and Treasure, or by such other person or persons as the Board of Directors may authorize when necessary.

9.3 No loans shall be contracted on behalf of the corporation, and no evidence of indebtedness shall be issued in its name, unless authorized by a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors.

9.4 All funds of the Corporation, not otherwise employed, shall be deposited in the Corporation's accounts with such bank or banks or other depositories as the Board of Directors may select.

ARTICLE 10 Fiscal Year

The Fiscal year of this corporation shall begin on September 1 and end on August 31.

ARTICLE 11 Annual Report

Neither the Corporation nor the Board of Directors shall be required to send to members any annual or other report or statement of affairs of the Corporation. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit or restrict the right of a member to request any information regarding the affairs of this Corporation to which the member may be entitled under the laws of the State of Louisiana.

ARTICLE 12 Operating Code

The Board of Directors is authorized to adopt an operating code by which the Corporation shall be governed with regard to more specific decisions and activities.

ARTICLE 13 Seal

A corporate seal is not required for this corporation.

ARTICLE 14 Rules of Procedure

In all cases not otherwise provided for by these Bylaws, this Corporation shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

ARTICLE 15 Amendments

These bylaws may be amended, altered or repealed and new Bylaws may be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the present and voting Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting, provided, however, notice of the proposed actions has been submitted to the Board of Directors in writing at least fourteen days prior to said meeting.

ARTICLE 16 Discrimination Prohibited

The Bayou Region Volleyball Association shall not, nor shall anyone acting on its behalf, discriminate against any person or group of persons on the basis of age, sex, race, creed, nationality, disability or sexual orientation.

ARTICLE 17 Dissolution of Organization

In event of dissolution, the residual assets of this organization will be turned over to one or more organizations, which themselves are exempt as organizations described in sections 501C (3) and 170(e) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code 1954 or corresponding sections of any prior or future Internal Revenue Code, to benefit USVBA for use in development of volleyball activity in the same geographic area of this USVBA Regional Volleyball Association.

Operating Code

Preamble: The Operating Code describes policy statements of the Bayou Regional Volleyball Association (Corporation) and its substructures. An Administrative Manual, which delineates the specific functioning of each substructure, has been authorized by the Board of Directors. The Administrative Manual shall be subject to the review of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 1 Vision/Purpose

Refer to Bylaws, Article II, 2.1, 2.2.

ARTICLE 2 Affiliations

Refer to Bylaws, Article II, 2.2.4

ARTICLE 3 Governance

A. Board of Directors.

1. Authority. Refer to Bylaws, Article VI, 6.1.
2. Accountability. The Board of Directors is the highest authority of the Corporation.
3. Mission/Responsibility. Refer to Bylaws, Article 2
4. Other Policies
 - a. All members of the Board of Directors shall register annually with the Bayou Region Volleyball Association.
 - b. Vacancies on the Board of Directors, other than those created by an expired term of office, shall be filled as stated in the Bylaws, Article 6.
 - c. The following criteria shall be applied in determining whether a Director shall be removed for non-attendance at Board meetings:
 - 1) Two consecutive unexcused absences from meetings without advance notification to the Commissioner or Secretary that he or she cannot attend, whether or not a new term of office as a director is being assumed.
 - 2) Three total absences during three consecutive years.
 - d. If an Education Based Member Organization or the Founding Member Organization desires to change its appointment of a Director, the Member Organizations shall notify the Secretary of the Corporation in writing for receipt at least twenty- four (24) hours in advance of the next meeting of the Board of Directors. A signed facsimile copy may be

used, however the Member Organization shall forward an official letter of notification to the Secretary of the Corporation by first class or express mail no later than the same date as the facsimile copy was sent.

B. Directors

1. Authority – refer to Bylaws, Article 6
2. Accountability. The officers shall be accountable to the Board of Directors, as specified in the Bylaws, Article 6, and may be removed as specified in Bylaws, Article 6.
3. Responsibilities:
 - a. The Commissioner shall:
 - 1) Be the principal agent of the Corporation.
 - 2) Be the principal liaison between the Corporation and USA Volleyball.
 - 3) Act as the chairperson of the Board of Directors.
 - 4) Serve as chair of the Executive Committee.
 - 5) Ensure compliance with USA Volleyball ROD requirements.
 - 6) Approve all teams for USAV National Championships.
 - 7) Perform other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.
 - b. The Associate Commissioner shall:
 - 1) Assist the Commissioner with the functions of his/her office.
 - 2) Serve as the chair for the nominating committee.
 - 3) Serve as the chair for the Recognition and Awards Committee.
 - 4) Serve on the Executive Committee.
 - 5) Perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.
 - c. The Adult Male Player Representative shall:
 - 1) Represent the interests of all adult male players in The Region to the Board of Directors.
 - 2) Represent the interests of all adult male players in The Region to the National Corporation.
 - 3) Assist in the creation of programs for adult male players in The Region.
 - 4) Perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.
 - d. The Adult Female Player Representative shall:
 - 1) Represent the interests of all adult female players in The Region to the Board of Directors.

- 2) Represent the interests of all adult female players in The Region to the National Corporation.
 - 3) Assist in the creation of programs for adult female players in The Region.
 - 4) Perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.
- e. The Secretary shall:
- 1) Keep the minutes of all proceedings of the meetings of the Board of Directors.
 - 2) Keep records of the names and addresses of the members of the Corporation.
 - 3) Carry on the correspondence of the Corporation, including the dissemination of information to members and to the public.
 - 4) Perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.
- f. The Treasurer shall:
- 1) Keep the accounting records of the Corporation.
 - 2) At the request of the Board of Directors, prepare and submit to the Board of Directors statements of the financial condition of the Corporation.
 - 3) Review the budget to ensure compliance with the approval of expenditures and financial policy for consideration by the Board of Directors.
 - 4) Perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.
- g. The Director of Junior Female Development shall:
- 1) Represent the interests of junior female teams and players to the Board of Directors.
 - 2) Represent the interests of the region's junior female teams and players to the National Corporation.
 - 3) Create programs for the development of junior female players in The Region.
 - 4) Assist in the formation of new junior female volleyball clubs in The Region.
 - 5) Perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.
- h. The Director of Junior Male Development shall:
- 1) Represent the interests of junior male teams and players to the Board of Directors.
 - 2) Represent the interests of the region's junior male teams and players to the National Corporation.
 - 3) Create programs for the development of junior male players in The Region.

- 4) Assist in the formation of new junior male volleyball clubs in The Region.
 - 5) Perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.
- i. The At-Large Director shall:
- 1) Oversee the production of the publications of the Corporation.
 - 2) Oversee the securing of Regional sponsors.
 - 3) Perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.
- j. The Referee Chair shall:
- 1) Develop and certify referees through clinics and rating programs.
 - 2) Develop and nominate candidates for national certifications.
 - 3) Coordinate the use of certified referees for sanctioned tournaments in The Region.
 - 4) Perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.
- k. The Scorekeeper Chair shall:
- 1) Develop and certify scorekeepers through clinic and rating programs.
 - 2) Develop and nominate candidates for national certifications.
 - 3) Coordinate the use of certified scorekeepers for sanctioned tournaments in The Region.
 - 4) Perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.
- l. The Director of Coaching Development shall:
- 1) Coordinate Impact and CAP clinics for the development of coaches within The Region.
 - 2) Coordinate other clinics and programs for the development of coaches in The Region.
 - 3) Perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors
- m. The Director of Outdoor Development
- 1) Represent the interests of outdoor members to the Board of Directors.
 - 2) Represent the interests of the region's outdoor members to the National Corporation.
 - 3) Create programs for the development of outdoor members in The Region.
 - 4) Assist in the formation of outdoor volleyball clubs in The Region.
 - 5) Perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.

C. Executive Committee

1. Authority. Refer to Bylaws, Article 7
2. Accountability. The Executive Committee shall be accountable to the Board of Directors.
3. Responsibilities:
 - a. Primary. Refer to Bylaws, Article 7
 - b. Other:
 - 1) Shall have general supervisory responsibility for financial development of the Corporation, including the investment portfolio.
 - 2) Shall supervise the awards and recognition programs of the Region.
 - 3) Perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.

D. Committees and Commissions of the Board of Directors.

1. Authority. An elected or appointed Director, as authorized by the Bylaws, Article VII, shall supervise committees and/or Commissions established by the Board of Directors.
2. Accountability
 - a. All Committees and/or Commissions established by the Board of Directors shall report to the Board of Directors.
 - b. The Commissioner or other supervising Director, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint the Chair of each committee.
 - c. Chairs of Committees and Commissions may appoint members with the approval of the supervising Director.
3. Committee and Commissions.
 - a. Nominating Committee.
 - 1) Authority. Refer to Bylaws, Article 6
 - 2) Accountability. The Nominating Committee shall be under the general supervision of the Assistant Commissioner.
 - 3) Responsibilities. Refer to Bylaws, Article 6
 - b. Recognitions and Awards Committee.

- 1) Authority. Refer to Bylaws, Article 7
 - 2) Accountability. This committee shall be under the general supervision of the Executive Committee.
 - 3) Responsibilities. This committee shall be responsible for identifying and recognizing contributions to the Regional by members or groups through annual or special awards. In addition, this committee shall be responsible for conducting any awards event.
- c. Ethics and Eligibility Committee.
- 1) Authority. Refer to Bylaws, Article 7.
 - 2) Accountability. This committee shall be accountable to the Board of Directors.
 - 3) Responsibilities. This committee shall perform those responsibilities described in Article X of this Operating Code.
- d. Finance and Budget Committee.
- 1) Authority. Refer to Bylaws, Article 7.
 - 2) Accountability. This committee shall be accountable to the Executive Committee. The Treasures shall have supervisory responsibility for this committee.
 - 3) Responsibilities.
 - i. Review monthly financial statements and reconcile them with the accounts of the corporation.
 - ii. Review the annual budget of the Corporation on a quarterly basis.
 - iii. Make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding disposition of the budget.
 - iv. Review all extraordinary contracts and proposals for new programs and render a judgment as to their financial impact on the Corporation.
 - v. Annually review the performance of the investment portfolio.
4. If at all possible, Committees and Commissions should share their reports and recommendations with the Executive Committee prior to discussion by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 4 Professional Staff

- A. Authority. Refer to Bylaws, Article 8
- B. Accountability. Staff members shall be accountable to the Executive Committee and supervised by the Commissioner.

- C. Responsibilities. Shall perform such duties as assigned by the Commissioner and/or Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 5 Registration Categories

- A. Authority. Refer to Bylaws, Article 5
- B. Definitions.
 - 1. Registration. Registration is the process of recording and filing with the Corporation the name of a team/individual registrant with required ancillary information and the receipt of requisite fee(s).
 - 2. Registered with USA Volleyball. Teams/individuals that are registered in any annual registration category shall be considered “registered” with the Region and with the National Corporation.
- C. Individual.
 - 1. Regular. Registration required of individuals participating in USAV sanctioned competition as players, coaches, officials and administrators.
 - 2. Junior Olympic Volleyball Player. Registration issued to a player who meets the qualifications of “Junior Olympic Volleyball player” as established annually by the Regional Operations Division (ROD) of USA Volleyball
- D. Team. Each team participating in USAV sanctioned competition shall be considered registered with the Regional and the National Corporation by registering in one of the following categories:
 - 1. Regular. Registration required of teams composed either entirely of regular players or a composite of regular and Junior Olympic Volleyball players.
 - 2. Junior Olympic Volleyball. Registration required of teams composed entirely of Junior Olympic Volleyball Players.
- E. Other. The Board of Directors with the approval of USA Volleyball Vice-President, Regional Operations Division, may create additional categories of special registrations annually.

ARTICLE 6 Fees and Benefits

- A. Authority. Refer to Bylaws, Article 5
- B. Membership Fees. The Board of Directors shall establish annual membership fees for any and all categories of membership. The actual amount shall not be printed in the Operating Code but be published in the Regional Handbook or may be obtained from the Regional Office.

- C. Benefits. Membership entitles teams and individuals to benefits from the Region and the National Corporation. Membership benefits may change from time to time. Current benefits are listed in the Regional Handbook or may be obtained from the Region office.

ARTICLE 7 Player and Team Eligibility

These conditions and rules shall govern entrance to and competition in all Region events and programs.

- A. Authority. Refer to Bylaws, Article 2
- B. Definitions.
 - 1. Players:
 - a. Eligible Player. A player who is eligible for USAV sanctioned competition pursuant to the current codes of eligibility of USAV.
 - b. Ineligible Player. A player ruled to be in violation of the current code of eligibility of USAV.
 - c. Junior Olympic Volleyball Player. A player who meets the age/grade requirements, as specified in the USAV Operating Code, Article X, E, 3,e.
 - d. Adult Player. A player who does not meet the definition of a junior Olympic Volleyball Player.
 - 2. Teams:
 - a. Classification. Team assignment by age groups or skill level, i.e. AA, A, BB, B. In junior age group competition, it may be single age only or a maximum age and under. In master and seniors competition, it shall be minimum age and older.
 - b. Division. A group of teams defined for tournament competition by gender of the participating players, i.e. female, male or coed.
 - c. Club. A combination of players and aggregate of two or more teams of one or more divisions, and one or more classifications, registered under the same club name, which may or may not have the same team name.
 - d. Team. A combination of players participating as a single playing unit restricted to one division and classification.
 - e. Club Team. A team affiliated with a club as defined in c. above.
- C. Eligibility Requirements for Competitions of the Corporation.
 - 1. Registrations. All players, coaches, managers, team trainers, officials, teams, and others who are involved in a sanctioned competition shall be registered with a USAV Regional Volleyball Association or with the National Corporation.
 - 2. Participants Code of Conduct. All participants shall sign and abide by the Participants Code of Conduct.
 - 3. Substance Abuse Policy. All participants shall abide by the USAV Substance Abuse Policy.

- D. Teams Planning to Participate in USA Volleyball Championships.
 - 1. Each adult team must inform the Regional Office in writing of their intention to participate in any USAV Indoor National Championship not later than February 1 of the current season.
 - 2. Each junior team must inform the Regional Office in writing of their intention to participate in any USAV Indoor National Championship not later than March 1 of the current season.
 - 3. Each outdoor or coed team must inform the Regional Office in writing of their intention to participate in any USAV National Championship not later than 30 days prior to the entry deadline for that event.
 - 4. Specific Eligibility Requirements for Teams Planning to Enter USA Volleyball Championships. All players and teams entering a USA Volleyball National Championship Event shall adhere to the eligibility requirements as stated in the USAV Operating Code, Article 10, E.

ARTICLE 8 Region Tournaments and Events

- A. Sanctioning Requirements and Procedures. Any organization desiring to conduct a sanctioned event within the Region shall seek sanction/approval from the Region Office a minimum of 30 days prior to the event. All tournaments and events (i.e. tryouts, clinics, exhibitions, etc.) must be sanctioned in writing by the Region Commissioner. Application for sanction may be requested from the Region Office. Requirements for sanctioned tournaments may be found in the Region Handbook under Guidelines for USAV Sanctioned Tournaments.
- B. Membership Requirements for Participation in Region Tournaments and Events. All participants in Region events must be registered members. Sanctioned competition protects a player's eligibility for participation in qualifying regional, national and international competition.
- C. Sanctioned Season. The sanctioned calendar season begins on 1 November and ends on 31 October.
 - 1. The indoor six-player "friendship" season shall begin on 1 November and end on the last day of January. Players are not restricted to a specific team or club, and uniform requirements shall be relaxed, during the friendship season.
 - 2. The indoor six-player "sanctioned" season shall begin on 1 February and end on 31 October.
 - 3. The outdoor and other sanctioned seasons shall run concurrent with the sanctioned calendar season.
- D. Rules of Play. The United States Rules Modified as published in the current United States Volleyball Rule Book shall govern competition.

- E. Tournament Guidelines. All sanctioned tournaments must be conducted in accordance with the Guidelines for USAV Sanctioned Tournaments.
- F. Protests.
 - 1. Protests at Tournaments. Protests arising with respect to rules interpretations or decisions of the match or tournament officials must be brought to the Protest Committee assigned by the Tournament Director and must be made in accordance with current USAV rules. Protests regarding eligibility or other issues at tournaments should be forwarded in writing to the Region Commissioner.
 - 2. Other Protests. Protests arising from any other source, or at any other event, should be forwarded in writing to the Region Commissioner

ARTICLE 9 Regional Championship Tournaments

- A. Host. Bids will be accepted to host Region Championship events until 1 September. The Executive Committee shall make a decision to grant any approval to host a Championship by 1 October.
- B. Date. The date of each Championship shall be established by the Board of Directors based on the following criteria:
 - 1. Deadline for entry to National Championships;
 - 2. Availability and suitability of appropriate facilities;
 - 3. Availability of non-compete weekends.
- C. Site. The location of each Championship will be determined by the Executive Committee based on the following criteria:
 - 1. Host organization;
 - 2. Availability and suitability of appropriate facilities;
- D. Administration.
 - 1. Event Director. The tournament host shall provide an Event Director responsible for all logistical aspects of the tournament.
 - 2. Competition Director. The Region Commissioner shall appoint a Competition Director who shall have authority over all areas of competition (i.e. format, seeding, schedules, etc.)
- E. Team Eligibility for Region Championships. To be eligible for Regional Championships, a team must have participated in a minimum of two USAV tournaments, at least one of which was within the Region.

ARTICLE 10 Disciplinary Action, Adjudication, and Appeals

The Bayou Region Volleyball Association adopts the Due Process, Penalties and Appeals Procedures of USA Volleyball as outlined in the USAV Bylaws, Article 11, available through the Region Handbook.

ARTICLE 11 Official Publications

- A. Handbook. The Region Handbook shall be revised and printed at least every year and distributed to all regular members. The Region Handbook shall meet the requirements as set forth in the USAV ROD Administrative manual.
- B. Web site. The Region shall maintain an informational presence on the World Wide Web via a web site and/or other instruments.
- C. Other Publications. The Board of Directors may authorize other publications.

ARTICLE 12 Amendments

- A. Authority. Refer to Bylaws, Article 11 and Article 6
- B. Procedure for Submission.
 - 1. Source. Additions, deletions or amendments to this Operating Code may be proposed by any entity of the Corporation, including but not limited to a member, a director, a staff member or any person from an officially recognized substructure.
 - 2. Submission. Proposals may be submitted to the Corporate Office or to any member of the Board of Directors.
- C. Action. The Board of Directors shall make additions, deletions or amendments to this Operating Code.

Junior Volleyball Leader's Code Of Ethics

As a Club Director, Coach and/or Chaperone of junior participants and members in the Bayou Regional Volleyball Association (BRVA), I understand that I must:

- Be a registered member of the BRVA and USA Volleyball.
- Attend any meetings and pass any exams required by the BRVA and/or USA Volleyball.
- Inform players and their parent or guardians that participants are subject to certain risks, including property damage, injury, and death, and that they must sign the BRVA / USAV Waiver and Release of Liability Form and the Code of Conduct before becoming members and participating in any try-out, practice, competition, or other sanctioned event.
- Ensure that practices, official team travel, and competitions are properly supervised.
- Work individually to develop the skills of every member of the team.
- Attain and maintain a minimum of IMPACT Certification in order to coach in any USAV Junior Olympic Volleyball National Tournament or Qualifiers.

As a Junior Olympic Volleyball Coach, Club Director and/or Chaperone in the BRVA, I understand that I must not:

- Supply or condone the use of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal or banned drugs.
- Participate in, condone, or require, any action by players that is illegal under either the civil or criminal code.
- Allow, encourage, condone, or require any behavior that threatens a player's high school, collegiate, or BRVA/USAV Volleyball eligibility.
- Invite players to try out for or join my team or club once they have committed to or competed with another club for the current season, which is defined as the period from December 1 until the conclusion of the player's team's competition. I will inform players and their parents or guardians of this policy and ask them to abide by it.

I understand that violations of this Code of Ethics may result in sanctions being levied against myself, my players, my team, my club, and/or the club director including but not limited to loss of eligibility.

Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Policies

DISCRIMINATION POLICY : The commitment of the Bayou Regional Volleyball Association to the most fundamental principles of personal freedom, equality of opportunity, and human dignity requires that treatment of all members of the Regional be based on individual abilities and qualifications and be free from invidious discrimination.

The Bayou Regional Volleyball Association (BRVA) does not engage in discrimination based on age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language, socio-economic status or any basis proscribed by law. The BRVA will not patronize any organization and/or business that engage in discriminatory practices of any basis proscribed by law.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY : The Bayou Regional Volleyball Association is committed to maintaining an athletic environment that is free from sexual harassment. Harassment can occur between any combination of members of the volleyball community – coaches, players, parents, and organizers. It

generally occurs when one person, the harasser, holds a position of real or perceived authority over another individual.

Sexual harassment may involve:

- Suggestive comments about physical appearance
- Leering or staring
- Use or display of sexual material, not legitimately connected to coaching volleyball
- Sexual teasing
- Jokes with sexual themes
- Unwanted physical contact
- Promises or rewards in return for sexual favors
- Sexual assault

Bayou Regional members may not engage in sexual harassment of another BRVA member. Unwelcome and unwanted sexual advances, request for sexual favors, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature such as sexual jokes, gestures, graffiti, posters, writings, touching or other physical contact may constitute sexual harassment when:

1. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for participation, team selection and/or other decisions affecting such individual;
2. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's opportunity to participate in volleyball events or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

If a Regional member sexually harasses another Regional member, the harassed may take any or all of the following actions:

1. Respond immediately and do not ignore the problem;
2. Speak to the offender about his/her behavior; and
3. Report such behavior to a responsible adult member of your club and the Regional Commissioner in writing including but not limited to,
 - A. Your name
 - B. The name of the alleged offender
 - C. The specific nature and dates of the sexual harassment, and
 - D. Witnesses to the actions, if any.

A report of sexual harassment will remain confidential to the extent that maintaining confidentiality is not inconsistent with investigating the report of harassment, eliminating or remedying any sexual harassment found to have occurred, or preventing future harassment.

If so requested by the reporting party, the Regional Commissioner, or an appointed designee(s), will investigate the charges. Any member may be suspended from participation in sanctioned events, pending the investigation. Based upon the results of the investigation, and on a case basis, the Commissioner or the duly assigned designee(s) will determine whether the conduct of the alleged offender constitutes sexual harassment. If a determination that the member is guilty of sexual harassment is made, immediate and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

The disciplinary action will be consistent with the nature and severity of the offense and shall be approved by a review board. Such disciplinary action may include but shall not be limited to: suspension, termination or permanent expulsion from the Regional.

Additionally, any member who fails to cooperate in an investigation of alleged sexual harassment is subject to appropriate sanctions including without limitation, all of the above.

Any member who feels he/she has not been treated fairly in keeping with these policies should utilize the Regional's due process procedure.

Zero Tolerance Policy

Zero Tolerance Policy regarding threats made to USAVolleyball member coaches, match officials and tournament directors.

Threat - a declaration of an intention or determination to inflict punishment, injury, etc., in retaliation for, or conditionally upon, some action or course...

Coach – Any person regardless of age, in charge of directing a team during any USAVolleyball sanctioned event through the BayouRVA, including but not limited to tournaments, practice, etc.

Match Official – Any USAVolleyball member (not limited to referees, scorekeepers, line judges, ball “shaggers” and other personnel) involved with the management of a USAV sanctioned event.

Tournament Director/Personnel – Any USAVolleyball member involved with the management of a USAV event sanctioned through the BayouRVA.

The Bayou RVA acknowledges the right for spectators to voice their opinion of the exciting action which takes place during a BRVA/USAV sanctioned volleyball event. We wish it could always be applause and cheering for a good play, or compliments for a well officiated match or successful tournament but too frequently it is negative in response to decisions made by coaches, match officials or tournament directors/personnel.

Voicing an opinion of a coach or tournament director's decision or match official's judgment is certainly part of the game. However, on occasion, spectators may go beyond just voicing their opinion to the point of making a threat.

The Bayou RVA has, effective immediately, a zero tolerance Policy any person making any type of threat to any USAV member coach, tournament director/personnel or match official during any BayouRVA sanctioned USAV event.

On occasion the opinion may be by a junior player's parent or guardian, dissatisfied with the decisions of a coach resulting in negative consequences for the player and/or team. It may be a spectator informing a match official that his/her calls were bad or they are a terrible referee, and while rude, insensitive and

boorish may have to be unfortunately endured and tolerated by not only the official but also all near the obnoxious person making the comment(s).

However, when comments such as “After the match, ref”, “I’ll break your face”, “In the parking lot after the match”, etc. occur, an imminent threat has been made.

Any threatened match official, tournament personnel or coach is now required to immediately remove themselves from the area without response (make no attempt to respond or engage the person making the threat) and report the incident to the nearest tournament director, facility manager or security officer who will provide a safe haven (a secure area away from the person making the threat).

There will be no acceptable reason or excuse which will allow the person making the threat to remain on the premises. He/she must be asked to remove themselves from the premises immediately without further comment and not return to any facility being used for the remainder of the event, regardless of length.

Should the person not comply with the request for removal or the tournament director/personnel or facility manager also not feel safe, the appropriate law enforcement agency must be called to assist in the removal of the offender.

All matches in the facility will be interrupted until the offender has left the premises. The entire incident must be reported to the BayouRVA Commissioner in writing within 24 hours.

Membership And Registration

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The “Friendship Season”

The adult ‘friendship season’ runs from November 1 to January 1. There is no ‘friendship season’ for the junior divisions. All participants competing in a sanctioned tournament must be currently registered USAV members. All sanctioned tournament rules and policies apply, with the following two exceptions:

1. Players on a team do not have to have identical uniforms as long as there is a clearly visible unique number on each player’s shirt.
2. A player does not have to be affiliated with a team to participate in a friendship tournament, but must be a currently registered USAV member.

The Regular Season

The regular season runs from November 1 (for juniors) and January 1 (for adults) to the conclusion of the National Championship Tournaments held for each division.

The Outdoor Season

The outdoor season runs from March 1 to October 31. All participants must be USAV members to compete in any USAV/BRVA sanctioned event.

Individual Membership Fees

| | |
|---|---------|
| Regular/Junior <i>For players, coaches, officials and includes sports accident insurance coverage, access to member handbook, rulebook(adults) and USAV magazine and includes participation in all USAV events, including outdoor events.</i> | \$50.00 |
| Bayou 8 & under <i>For all memberships under 8 years old</i> | FREE |
| Youth Membership Fee <i>Memberships between 8 and 10 years old. The 8U and Youth membership do not qualify members to attend any USAV National Events including National Qualifying events.</i> | \$15.00 |
| Outdoor Annual | \$20.00 |
| Summer ONLY <i>Includes sports and liability insurance that is required by all USAV participants.</i> | \$15.00 |
| One-Event <i>This fee applies to competing in a single sanctioned event during the season. A person participating in more than one event during the season must pay the full appropriate membership fee. The one-event fee includes insurance only.</i> | \$25.00 |
| Background Screen Fee <i>For all individuals affiliated with a junior program to include but not limited to: club directors, club administration, coaches, referees, trainers, team representatives, chaperones, event directors, etc</i> | \$17.50 |

Regional Refund Policy

Membership Fees Refunds will be given if an individual has not participated in any sanctioned events or practice. The refund will be minus a \$25 processing fee. No refunds of any kind will be given if an individual has participated in any sanctioned event including team meetings, practice, etc.

Payment Information

Individuals may pay with a credit card (MC, VI only) during the online registration process.

Adults paying their USAV membership fee by check may send checks made out to Bayou RVA to 7226 Success St., Arabi, LA 70032.

Junior members must check with their junior club regarding the club policy for payment of the USAVolleyball membership fee. (If a club's fee includes the USAV/BRVA membership fee and the junior member already has a 'current' membership by paying the fee with a credit card during registration, the club should reduce their fee by the USAV/BRVA membership fee.)

Background Screening Policy

POLICY: It is the policy of the Regional Volleyball Associations (RVAs) that any entity intending to hire or use registered individuals in any sanctioned junior volleyball activities will accept and abide by this background screening policy. The following individuals will be screened: Club directors, club administrators, team reps, coaches, chaperones, and trainers who intend to register, affiliate and/or participate with a junior volleyball club or team in a RVA. Additionally, the entity will enforce the penalties resulting from a negative background screening report. Failure to do so is grounds for automatic suspension of membership privileges to participate in sanctioned junior events and/or activities. All registered individuals of USAV and each RVA have the Right of Due Process as printed in their respective documents.

The RVAs of USAV will not register, or allow to be registered, any individual who refuses to consent to a background screen if they intend to participate in RVA sanctioned events with registered junior members. Junior members are any members under the age of 18. A background screen will not be required for those individuals who will be classified as junior players or those members not associated with junior activities.

Members who are subject to background screening will be screened every two years. The RVAs retain the right to require additional background screening at any time.

PROCESS: Every person required to submit to Background Screening must complete, sign and date the Consent and Waiver Release Form. These forms will be submitted and the applicant cleared before the applicant may participate in sanctioned junior events and/or activities.

Upon receipt of the above described documents, the RVA will request that Southeastern Security Consultants, Inc. (SSCI) perform the background screen.

All information received as a result of a background check will be strictly confidential. Notice of clearance or disqualification for all applicants will be provided via e-mail to:

1. The designated person of the RVA where the person is registered.
2. USA Volleyball National Office

A notice of automatic disqualification will be sent by the screening service to the hiring or using entity. The complete profile will be provided directly to an automatically disqualified individual, along with a copy of the "Summary of Your Rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act" (FCRA), and a notification that the person is prohibited from participating in RVA/USAV sanctioned junior activities or events. The disqualified person may appeal the disqualification to the Screening Company. Persons automatically disqualified are excluded from participation in any RVA sanctioned junior events or activities.

AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFIERS FOR PARTICIPATION IN SANCTIONED JUNIOR EVENTS AND/OR

ACTIVITIES: Convictions based on being found guilty, pled guilty or pled nolo contendere for sexual abuse, molestation, physical abuse, aggravated assault or assault of a minor, murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, and corruption of the morals of a minor.

Falsification of information on any membership application or the consent/release form is grounds for membership revocation or denial of membership.

ENFORCEMENT: It is the responsibility of the entity hiring or using those individuals who are disqualified to make sure the person does not participate in RVA sanctioned junior events and/or activities.

PENALTY: Failure of an entity to request background screening or enforce disqualification is cause for suspension of all members of the offending entity until background screening and enforcement requirements are met.

Age Division Definitions For 2017-2018

Adopted by the USAV Board of Directors, for implementation in the 2004-2005 season and to continue through the Quadrennial (ending in 2008), that the age group definitions shall read as follows:

The following age groups shall be in effect for players other than college students* who, regardless of age, are not eligible to compete in sanctioned junior events, unless amended by action as specified in Article X, E 2, a (3) of this Operating Code. Players need not be currently enrolled in high school except as noted:

18 and under division: Players who were born on or after September 1st, 1999; or Players who were born on or after September 1, 1997 and a high school student in the 12th grade or below sometime during the current academic year.

17 and under division: Players who were born on or after September 1st, 2000

16 and under division: Players who were born on or after September 1st, 2001

15 and under division: Players who were born on or after September 1st, 2002

14 and under division: Players who were born on or after September 1st, 2003

13 and under division: Players who were born on or after September 1st, 2004

12 and under division: Players who were born on or after September 1st, 2005

11 and under division: Players who were born on or after September 1st, 2006

10 and under division: Players who were born on or after September 1st, 2007

9 and under division: Players who were born on or after September 1st, 2008

8 and under division: Players who were born on or after September 1st, 2009

Boys 14 and Under Division: Regionally waived boys teams in the 14 and under age group will be allowed to participate at the USA Junior National Championships using the following age/grade definition:

Players who were born on or after September 1, 2002 or Players who were born on or after September 1, 2001 (15 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the eighth grade (8th) during the current academic year. (This exception is based on the net height difference of 7'4 1/8" to 7' 11 5/8" between the 14 and Under Division to the 15 and Under Division.)

Note: These age definitions are used by domestic club programs and are NOT the same as the age definitions for the International and Domestic High Performance programs for 2017.

The Age Definition Policy was most recently revised by the USA Volleyball Board of Directors on January 19, 2002. The classification cut-off date of September 1 was reviewed by the USAV Junior Assembly and the USA Regional Volleyball Association Assembly prior and during to the USAV 2013 Annual Meetings and research justified the continuation of the cut-off date of September 1.

Transfer Policy

Purpose: To allow current junior members limited flexibility in altering their choice of clubs to play for.

Reasoning: The region acknowledges that sometimes players and/or clubs make mistakes in their choice of partnership and that choice is not in the best interest of either.

The Bayou RVA junior transfer policy:

1. Junior members may change clubs once during a USAV season.
2. Any change of clubs must be confirmed by February 15th of the current season
3. The transfer must be requested by the junior member's adult custodian
4. The transfer request may be accepted or denied by the original club affiliate.

- a. If accepted, the junior member may then choose to be “undecided” (without a club affiliation) or accept an invitation to affiliate with another club;
- b. If denied, the junior member may appeal but may not participate with any other club until the appeal is ruled on.
- c. Requests to change clubs prior to January 15 of the current season may be done so without the original’s club approval
 - i. Any contractual obligations must be negotiated between the custodian and the club

Club Development Program

1. CLUB PROGRAM CONCEPTION

- a. Secure the encouragement and support of a number of parents who have athletes currently playing high school or other organized volleyball.
 - i. Ideally you will have 2 or 3 sets of parents in each age category you wish to field teams in.
 1. See the USAV age division regulations in the USA Volleyball Guide or Bayou RVA handbook.
 - ii. Why parents first?
 1. They pay the bills for:
 - a. Coaches
 - b. Facility rental
 - c. Equipment
- b. Call a meeting with all of these parents and players as soon as possible. Ask these people to bring at least one additional player and parent to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to:
 - i. Determine if there is sufficient parental support to warrant organizing a USAV program and
 - ii. Determine if there is sufficient athlete's support to warrant organizing a USAV program.
- c. Decide on what type of program.
 - i. Age groups
 - ii. Boys and/or girls
 - iii. Cut or no cut
 - iv. Elite or/and non-elite
 - v. Participation philosophy
- d. Financial considerations
 - i. Facility rental
 - ii. Uniform cost
 - iii. Volleyball purchase
 - iv. Player, coach, chaperones and administration registrations
 - v. Team registration
 - vi. Liability insurance (included with USAV membership)
 - vii. Secondary accident insurance (included with USAV membership)
 - viii. Coaches salaries
 - ix. Tournament entry fees (approximately \$125 - \$200 per tournament day)
 - x. Travel (members responsibility or included in club membership rates)
- e. Funding
 - i. Members' fees
 - ii. Fund raisers
 - iii. Corporate donation and/or sponsorship
- f. Consult a professional.
 - i. Accounting
 - ii. Legal

1. Incorporation
 2. Non-profit organization
 3. Tax exempt status
- g. Assuming there is sufficient support at the parental and player levels, you will need to go about the process of tentatively securing:
- i. Gym time. The private/parochial school systems are the most supportive as they are not bound by some of the regulatory requirements as the public system.
 - ii. Qualified coaches. This should be done with the same effort as any company looking to hire an employee. References should be checked and background inquiries must* be made.
 - iii. *-Background checks are required for all adult individuals associated with junior volleyball: Including but not limited to club directors, administrators, coaches (head, assistant, etc.) chaperones, trainers team reps, officials, etc. During online registration, the submission of the necessary information to complete a background screen is required for registration to be completed.
 1. Locate good coaches through word of mouth. Let the high school coaches, church leagues, college coaches and players in your area know what you are attempting to do. Former college players may have an interest in sharing their knowledge of the game.
 2. Require all persons who will be in charge of minors to complete an application and give consent to background checks (mandatory).
 - a. Both a Coaching Application Form and a Leader Information Form are included in this handbook.
 3. Have a proposed season mapped out to present to the prospective coaches. They should know what is expected of them and what they can expect from you.
 4. Outline pay scale and specific coaches responsibilities.
 - iv. Equipment/uniforms. Ask other clubs for recommendations of suppliers.
- h. Formal Organization
- i. Start small. Starting an age division and allowing it to fall apart can be devastating for your club.
 - ii. Complete all of the above preparations prior to the Thanksgiving Holiday.
 - iii. Have a parent and players meeting to introduce coaches, parents, players, and chaperones to formalize the season and to organize the teams.
 - iv. Register every player, coach, chaperone and administrator with USAV through the Bayou Regional.
 - v. Have each coach, leader and chaperones read and sign the Bayou Regional Code of Ethics. Send original to the regional office with registration form. Each club should retain a copy on file.
 - vi. Provide a contract for the players, parents, and chaperones to sign including all of the specific information as to what their responsibilities are to the club and what the club's responsibility is to them.

- vii. Provide a contract for the coaches to sign delineating the terms of their employment, and to further clarify that they are independent contractors and also subject to a background check.
- viii. Provide a contract for the gym space delineating the exact terms of your rental agreement.
- ix. Provide each player, coach, parent and chaperone with copies of a proposed practice and tournament schedule before the season begins.
- x. Provide each parent and coach with a copy of the budget so that everyone understands how you propose for the club to function financially.

2. CLUB FORMATION

- a. Obtain a sanction number and (certificate of insurance if required) from the Bayou Regional office for tryout and practice sites.
- b. Obtain event insurance information from the Bayou Regional office.
- c. Tryouts.
 - i. All athletes participating in a tryout or one time event must be registered with the Bayou Regional USA Volleyball to assure insurance coverage is in effect. Clubs hosting tryouts without proper registration are not insured and may not advertise or imply that the tryout or event is a Bayou Regional/USA event. (If you have tryouts without USAV registration, it is strongly recommended that you obtain insurance of some kind.)
 - ii. Determine the selection process your club will use to choose players.
 - iii. Select your team or teams to form your club.
- d. Individual/Team Registration.
 - i. Collect all completed Individual Registration forms and Team Registration forms. Check for completeness and all required signatures and mail to Bayou Regional Registrar.
- e. Medical History and Release Form.
 - i. The club should have two copies of this form, one for the team coach to have available at all times.
- f. Refer to the OFFICIAL USA VOLLEYBALL RULE BOOK.
 - i. Facilities and equipment information
 - ii. Participants in competition (uniform requirements)
 - iii. Rules, officials' duties, game procedures and officials hand signals.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. Club Administration
 - i. Provide gym space with proper volleyball setup at a time and place deemed acceptable to the coaches and players (3-4 hours per week per team)
 - ii. Provide at least one USAV approved volleyball per player.
 - iii. Provide a club (participant) dues structure sufficient to supply the team necessities and to compensate coaches for time and any approved expenses.
 - iv. Provide the coaches with the opportunity to coach without parental interference.

- v. Insure parents have free access to athletes at all times to provide parents with opportunities to observe the coaching techniques and professionalism of the coaches and staff.
 - vi. Never allow a coach or staff member to be with a team or players without at least two adults present.
 - vii. Arrange a tournament schedule with a tournament at least every two to three weeks.
- b. Parents
- i. Pay dues and associated tournament costs in a timely manner.
 - ii. Bring players to practice and pick up at scheduled time.
 - iii. Volunteer if available to assist in club activities.
 - iv. Refrain from interfering with players or coaches during practice or game situations.
 - v. Provide a positive role model.
- c. Players
- i. Come to practice ready for work with all equipment needed.
 - ii. Have a positive and willing to learn attitude.
 - iii. Be a team player.
 - iv. Have fun.
- d. Chaperones
- i. Adhere to the responsibilities outlined in the USVBA Chaperone Responsibility information sheet.

Tournament Directors

To assure maximum efficiency and consistency throughout USA Volleyball in the conduct of sanctioned competition, as well as fair and equitable treatment of teams and players, USA Volleyball has established guidelines. These guidelines shall be considered as the national minimum standard, and shall be an integral part of the sanction agreement with USA Volleyball and/or the Regional Volleyball Association.

It is recognized that not all organizations and facilities have the minimum resources available to continually meet these minimum standards. In these cases reasonable alternatives should be provided. The rules offer many options to allow for a wide range of use.

Complete guidelines for conducting a Bayou Regional/USAV sanctioned tournament can be found in the USA Volleyball Official Guidebook or by visiting the Bayou Regional website, www.BayouVolleyball.org.

Schedule and Sanctioning

1. Contact the Bayou Regional office to determine available dates.
 - a. Established tournaments will have first priority (prior to September 1 of that season) for a particular date.
 - b. Geographic distance and/or level of competition may be a factor in multiple Bayou Regional tournaments being held on the same date.
2. Send a completed Tournament Sanction Application accompanied by the appropriate fee to the Bayou Regional office.
 - a. The sanction fee is \$25 per court, up to a maximum of \$150.
 - i. Make checks payable to Bayou Regional Volleyball.
 - b. Upon receipt by the Regional office, a sanction may be granted.
 - i. If sanction is not granted, or withdrawn prior to the event, all sanction fees will be returned.
 - c. Dates will not be guaranteed or placed on the schedule until the sanction fee and the Tournament Sanction Form have been received and the sanction has been granted.
 - d. No tournament advertising or announcement is allowed until the sanction has been granted in writing.

Entry/ Fees / Deadlines

1. The Bayou Regional Volleyball Association does not dictate to any tournament organizer what amount should be charged for entry fees to any regionally sanctioned tournament.
 - a. Items to consider (both expense and income) when deciding on what entry fee to charge:
 - i. Facilities rental and equipment cost
 - ii. Game balls (at least 2 per court)
 - iii. Officials' expense
 - iv. Administrative (supplies, salaries, promotion)

- v. Awards
 - vi. Merchandise sales
 - vii. Admission collection
 - viii. Concessions
 - ix. Sponsorship
 - x. Fee charged by similar tournaments
- b. Exorbitant entry fees may result in a lack of team entries. Conversely, minimal entry fees may result in an inability to meet expenses.
 - c. Tournament entry fees may be non-refundable.
2. Tournament entry forms should include space for the Team Code as well as each participant's Membership Number.
 - a. The approved Regional Tournament Entry Form may be used for any Regional event. (Form included in this handbook.)
 3. Entry deadlines of at least two (2) weeks prior to the event should be set.
 - a. A tournament entry deadline allows for more efficient scheduling of play.
 - b. A tournament organizer may allow teams to enter after the deadline to complete a field or replace a cancellation.
 - c. A fair method for accepting teams should be published in the event the tournament may be over subscribed. (More entries than positions.)
 - i. Criteria should include entry date, regional affiliation or registered level of play.

Team Entries

1. Only entries from USAV registered teams and players should be accepted.
 - a. Tournament Directors must require entry forms (including rosters with USAV membership numbers) accompanied by the appropriate fee.
 - b. Phone entries should not be accepted.
2. Copies of any team roster which does not have current USAV membership numbers should be sent no later than the Monday prior to the event to the Regional Registrar to verify whether all participants are members of USAV.
 - a. This helps ensure your event will meet sanctioning requirements.
 - b. Only current USAV members are allowed to sit on the team bench during USAV sanctioned competition.
 - i. Tournament organizers must have all team rosters available on site.

- c. Players are not allowed to compete with more than one team at a tournament even if the teams are registered in different classifications.
3. Teams should be notified of their status for the particular tournament, as soon as the tournament organizers receive their entry.

Tournament / Event Administration

1. In conducting sanctioned tournaments, there must be a non-playing, non-officiating Tournament Director at each site who is responsible for keeping the tournament on schedule and properly recorded.
2. Sanctioned tournaments are to be conducted in accordance with USAV guidelines.
 - a. It is the responsibility of the Tournament Director to specify in writing which options or modifications to the rules will be enforced.
 - i. Teams should be notified of the tournament format and all modifications of USAV rules being used prior to acceptance of entry.
3. A “Protest Committee” composed of at least three persons must be appointed prior to the beginning of competition and posted at the tournament site.
 - a. Members of the “Protest Committee” should include the Tournament Director and/or Head Referee. Persons who are fluent in the rules of the game, preferably any participating professional volleyball officials not directly affected by the particular protest, should also be included.

Tournament Format

1. Guidelines for conducting indoor tournaments and leagues can be found in the USA Volleyball Domestic Competition Regulations (The rulebook). In addition to general information, there is complete information on:
 - a. Application and Preparation
 - i. Sanctioning
 - ii. Tournament administration
 - b. Fees and Awards
 - c. Types of Tournaments
 - i. Double elimination tournaments are discouraged.
 - d. Scheduling parameters
 - i. Example; two 25 rally point games - 50 minutes
 - ii. Samples of round robin schedules
 - iii. The tournament schedule and forfeit procedures should be clearly posted and all teams informed.
 - e. Methods of Play
 - i. One-, two- or multi-day tournaments
 - f. Guidelines for the determinations of playoff positions

- i. Method One
- g. Tie breakers for Junior National Competition
 - i. Method Two
 - ii. Note: Teams should be notified prior to competition which tie breaking procedure will be used.
- h. Warm-up procedures
 - i. The time between the end of one match and the beginning the next match should not exceed 10 minutes.
- i. Duties of Court Managers
- j. Procurement & Assignment of Referees
 - i. All officials must be USAV Certified and members of USA Volleyball
 - ii. A list of certified officials with contact information can be obtained from the BRVA Officials' Chair.
 - iii. Tournaments wishing to have their officials assigned by an independent contractor may do so or they may contract with the Region's Referee Chair.
- k. Assignment of Support Officials
 - i. A working schedule, including playoff games, should be posted prior to the first match of the day so teams will be properly informed as to respective responsibilities.

Officiating Responsibilities

1. Only certified USAV Officials may be used to officiate (R1) a sanctioned USAV event. (See BRVA Handbook, Officials' Division for how to secure USAV certified officials for your event.)
 - a. All teams are required to have listed on their roster and present at each event being participated in:
 - i. Certified referees;
 - (1) Adult – 2
 - (2) Juniors - 1
 - ii. One (1) certified scorekeeper.
 - b. In junior competitions, for registered teams competing in all age classifications 17 and under, an adult USAV registered Qualified Referee or above must be used as the Second Referee. (See 'Bayou Regional & USAV Requirements: Referee Certification Levels', for how to become a qualified referee.)
2. A tournament officiating schedule, including playoff matches, shall be posted prior to the first match so that all teams will be informed of their officiating duties.
 - a. The officiating schedule should be included with play schedule.
 - b. It is the responsibility of the individual teams to check the schedule and standings for playoff berths and/or officiating duties.
3. The Tournament Director will determine the penalty for a team missing an officiating assignment.

- a. Teams must be informed, prior to the commencement of tournament play, what type of penalty will be assessed for missing an officiating assignment.
4. A BRVA team that does not stay for an officiating assignment at the end of their competition will be assessed a fine of \$100 by the Bayou Regional.
 - a. Notification of the team and Regional office by the Tournament Director of the action is required.
 - b. That team, or any player on that team, will not be allowed to compete in any further BRVA Regional events until the fine is paid.
5. No Certified Official? Teams unable to provide certified officials will be required to pay a sufficient fee to cover all duties that require a certified official.
 - a. The tournament organizers will set the fee and include the amount in any pre-tournament invitation and information.
 - i. To help determine that amount, check the suggested pay scale in the “Official’s Requirements” section of the handbook.
 - ii. The fee must be sufficient to pay for any or all of the three official’s positions requiring certification (i.e., 1st & 2nd referees and certified scorekeeper) for each match the team would have to officiate, including any possible playoff matches.
 - b. The fee is to be used to provide paid certified officials by the host organization.
 - c. The fee does not excuse a team of supplying the support crew (i.e., line judges, visual scoreboard operator and assistant scorekeeper) for any assigned officiating responsibilities.
 - d. The fee is non-refundable.

Awards

1. The Bayou Regional does not require tournaments to give awards to participants.
 - a. Awards may enhance participation at adult tournaments.
 - b. Awards may be given at Junior Tournaments.
2. If awards are to be presented;
 - a. Tournament Directors should be prepared to award top placing teams using the following suggested guidelines:
 - i. 0 – 10 teams Team awards for 1st & 2nd place. Individual awards for 1st place.
 - ii. 11 – 20 teams Team award for 1st place. Individual awards for 1st & 2nd place.
 - iii. 21+ teams Team awards for 1st, 2nd & 3rd. Individual awards for 1st & 2nd
 - b. Tournament Directors must be prepared to present awards to up to 10 people per team.
 - c. All prospective teams should be notified in advance if awards are to be given.

Post Tournament Duties

1. No later than one week after the tournament, the Tournament Director will submit the following to the Regional Commissioner:
 - a. Tournament report (form located in this handbook) and roster of each team.
 - i. Including on-site registration report with collected fees.
 - b. Report of violations, problems and teams out of uniform.
 - c. Copies of all accident reports.
 - i. Accident report forms can be found in this handbook.

Referee & Scorekeeper

Certification Requirements

The requirements for regionally certified officials (referees and scorekeepers) are established each year by the Bayou Regional VBA Officials' Chair, listed in the Regional Directory. The Regional certifies officials at the junior (Qualified), Provisional, and Regional levels. In addition, USA Volleyball and the FIVB (Fédération Internationale de Volleyball) certify officials at the Junior National, National and International levels.

Each registered team in the BRVA is required to have a minimum of two certified referees and one certified scorekeeper on the roster and in attendance at every match. These officials may be any USAV registered member of the team and listed on the roster, including players, coaches and/or parents. (For junior's competition in the BRVA, 2ND referees must be region certified adults for all age divisions 17 and under.) The person certified for the particular official's position (referee or scorekeeper) must fulfill that duty at tournaments during assigned officiating responsibilities.

In addition to the team responsibility of having the appropriate officials on the roster, there is a need for professional volleyball officials. Persons interested in officiating USA volleyball should contact The Regional's Officials' Chair.

REFEREE CERTIFICATION LEVELS

Junior Olympic / Qualified Referee

- Become a member Bayou Regional Volleyball Association.
- Attend at least one regional rules clinic. (Refer to Regional event schedule.)
- Obtain a minimum score of 75% on the approved USAV Form 'D' written exam and corrected to 100%.
- Show the desire and ability to officiate satisfactorily as a 1st (adults only) and 2nd (adults and juniors) referee.
- Junior Olympic / Qualified Referee certification is valid for one season.

Provisional Referee

- Be a member of BayouRVA.
- Attend at least one regional rules clinic. (Refer to Regional Event schedule times and locations.)
- Obtain a score of 100% on the approved USAV Form 'A' written exam. (Corrected, Open book)
- Attend at least one regional scorekeeper's clinic. (Refer to Regional Event schedule times and locations.)
- Successfully complete the Regional Scorekeepers examination.
- Receive a satisfactory practical rating in each of two matches, one as a 1st referee and one as a 2nd referee.
 - A USA Junior National or National referee must give the practical rating.
- Provisional Referee certification is valid for one season.

Regional Referee

- Be a member of BayouRVA.
- Serve as a provisional referee (without major dispute) for at least two complete seasons.
- Annually attend an approved regional official's rules clinic. (Refer to Regional Event schedule times and locations.)
- Score 85% or above on the approved USAV Form 'A' or 'B' written exam.
- Attend at least one regional scorekeeper's clinic. (Refer to Regional Event schedule times and locations.)
- Successfully complete the Regional Scorekeepers examination.
- Receive a satisfactory practical rating in each of two matches, one as a 1st referee and one as a 2nd referee.
 - A USA Junior National or National referee must give the practical rating.
- Regional Referee certification is valid for one season.

Junior National Referee

- Be a member in good standing of the BayouRVA for a minimum of 2 seasons.
- Serve as a Regional Referee in good standing in the BayouRVA for a minimum of 2 seasons.
- Conduct an approved regional official's rules clinic. (Refer to Regional event schedule.)
- Score 88% or above on the approved USAV Form 'A' or 'B' written exam.
- Attend at least one regional scorekeeper's clinic. (Refer to Regional Event schedule times and locations.)
- Successfully complete the Regional Scorekeepers examination.
- Obtain approval of the Regional Official's Chair or Commissioner.
- File the official application with the Director for National/Junior National Referee Certification and Evaluation via the Regional's Officials' Chair or Commissioner.
- Successfully complete the Junior National rating process.
- Certification as a USAV Junior National Referee is valid for four years.
 - Certain national commitments must be met within the four-year period.

National Referee

- Be a member in good standing of the BayouRVA for a minimum of 2 seasons.
- Serve as a Junior National Referee in good standing in the BayouRVA for 1 season.
- Contribute his or her talents in rating, observing, and mentoring additional officials in the region.
- Conduct at least one Regional officials' clinic. (Refer to Regional Event schedule times and locations.)
- Score 90% or above on the approved USAV Form 'A' or 'B' written exam.
- Conduct at least one Regional scorekeeper's clinic. (Refer to Regional Event schedule times and locations.)
- Successfully complete the Regional Scorekeepers examination.
- Obtain approval of the Regional Officials' Chair and/or Commissioner.
- File the official application with the Director for National/Junior National Referee Certification and Evaluation via the Regional's Officials' Chair or Commissioner.

- Successfully complete the National rating process.
- Certification as a USAV National Referee is valid for three years.
 - Certain national commitments must be met within the three-year period.

SCOREKEEPER CERTIFICATION LEVELS

Junior / Provisional Scorekeeper

- Become a member of BayouRVA.
- Attend at least one Regional scorekeeper clinic. (Refer to Regional Event schedule times and locations.)
- Successfully complete the Regional Scorekeepers examination.
- Provisional Scorekeeper certification is valid for one season.

Regional Scorekeeper

- Become a member of BayouRVA.
- Serve as a provisional scorekeeper (w/o major dispute) for one complete season.
- Attend at least one Regional scorekeeper's clinic. (Refer to Regional Event schedule times and locations.)
- Successfully complete the Regional Scorekeepers examination.
- Successfully complete two practical ratings as a scorekeeper.
 - A USA Junior National or National scorekeeper must give the practical rating.
- Be at least 18 years of age at the completion of all certification requirements.
- Regional Scorekeeper certification is valid for one season.

USA National Scorekeeper

- Be a member in good standing of the BayouRVA for a minimum of 2 seasons.
- Serve as a Regional Scorekeeper in the BayouRVA for a minimum of 2 seasons.
- Conduct at least one Regional scorekeeper's clinic. (Refer to Regional Event schedule times and locations.)
- Demonstrated proficiency in the use of the USA Volleyball score sheet in sanctioned competition.
- File the official application with the Director for National Scorekeeper Certification and Evaluation via the Regional's Officials' Chair or Commissioner.
- Attend an approved national scorekeeper clinic in its entirety.
- Successfully complete the written and practical scorekeeper examinations.
- Certification as a USAV National Scorekeeper is valid for three years.
 - Certain commitments must be met within the three-year period.

In addition to the five classifications of scorekeepers listed, USA Volleyball has established six other classifications (11 totals). For information on becoming a USA-National (Retired), USA-International, USA-International (Retired), Regional Outdoor, USA-National Outdoor and USA-International Outdoor scorekeeper, contact the Regional Official's Chair.

Financial Assistance

In addition to the technical requirements listed prior, more details concerning increasing your certification level can be found in the USA Volleyball Official Guidebook, section 6. As an incentive, The BRVA does offer some financial assistance to those officials who are members of the region in good standing and are looking to improve their refereeing skills and increase their certification to the Junior National and National level.

Professional Volleyball Officials as Independent Contractors

Professional volleyball officials are independent contractors. Independent contractors are hired for a specific duty or period of time and there is no employer-employee relationship. Because independent contractors have no contractual obligation to work for any particular person or company, they determine when and where they work as well as the amount of compensation they are willing to accept for their service. Volleyball officials as independent contractors assume all expenses incurred for the execution of their service including but not limited to training, travel, supplies and uniforms.

Well-trained officials are vital to any successful athletic event. There is already a market for good volleyball officials and as the sport of volleyball continues to grow, so does the need for good officials.

While the Bayou RVA does not dictate what fees and/or other amenities any organization must pay to attract professional volleyball officials to referee at their particular tournament, The Region does recommend the Suggested Officials' Compensation for Professional Referees and/or Scorekeepers (as a minimum) be strongly considered.

Suggested Officials' Compensation

| Match fees | Match format: | 2/3 sets | 3/5 sets | 1 set(15 or 25) |
|------------------------|---------------|----------|----------|-----------------|
| National | | \$30 | \$42 | \$17 |
| Junior National | | \$27 | \$39 | \$16 |
| Regional | | \$25 | \$37 | \$14 |
| Provisional | | \$23 | \$35 | \$12 |

For tournaments that pay a flat rate or fee (i.e. per day or per session) the average per match rate should not fall below the suggested rate.

Meals

Lunch either provided or paid for and made available on site

Dinner provided or paid for if play is expected to last beyond 7PM

Accommodations

Accommodations may be provided for officials traveling more than 75 miles (No more than two to a room) and begin with the night before competition for those traveling more than 100 miles.

Last night of tournament should be provided for officials traveling more than 300 miles if competition is scheduled for or inadvertently to conclude later than 8PM.

Securing USAV certified officials

Tournament organizers are responsible for the securing, scheduling, and remuneration of USAV certified officials for their event. Securing USAV certified officials should be done a minimum of 30 days prior to your event.

A free current list of USAV certified officials will be provided upon request of the BRVA Officials' Chair. This list is also available on the region website: <http://www.bayouvolleyball.com/pdf/BRVAOfficials.pdf>. Tournament organizers may secure officials for their event by contracting with the Regional Officials' chair (see Directory) or with any individual.

Officials' Responsibilities and Commitment to the Region

It is requested that professional volleyball officials registered as members in the Bayou Regional Volleyball Association first check with the Officials' Chair to see that Regional events are sufficiently staffed before accepting any assignments outside of the Regional.

For officials wanting to improve their certification level, in addition to competency in officiating, the BRVA Officials' Division will also be evaluating prospective candidates on their demonstrated support of and participation in regional activities.

Professional Volleyball Officials must attend a USAV Rules clinic annually and fulfill the requirements of their particular certification level. In addition, Junior National and National Officials (and/or candidates for either certification) must be prepared to give at least one USAV Rules Clinic for junior clubs and adult teams per season. The BayouRVA Referee Chair will assign clinician responsibilities.

Rules & Scorekeeper Clinics

A list of rules clinics can be found on the website

- USAV / BRVA rules clinic - Free to current BRVA members
- USAV / BRVA scorekeeping clinic - Free for current BRVA members

Average length of time required for: Rules clinic, 2 - 3 hours; Scorekeeper clinic, 1 - 1.5 hours.

Referee Clinician and Raters:

Donalda Abadie (JN) Baton Rouge, LA / 225-978-763 / Donalda736@aol.com

John S. Cline (N) Arabi, LA / 504-452-9522 / Johnvbref@bellsouth.net

Doug Couvillon (N) Port Allen, LA / 225-336-0296 / dcouvillon@pipingequipment.com

David Dufrene (N) Metairie, LA / 504-717-1311 / super2xd@aol.com

Scott Ponson (JN) Gray, LA / 985-227-1195(text) / tarpon_gi@yahoo.com

Angelle Simms (N) Madisonville, LA / 985-373-1319 / iwiltouchu@aol.com

Scott Thompson (JN) Destrehan, LA / 708-807-0006 / scott.l.thompson@gmail.com

Scorekeeper Clinician and Raters:

Donalda Abadie (N) Baton Rouge, LA / 225-978-763 / Donalda736@aol.com

John S. Cline (N) Arabi, LA / 504-452-9522 / Johnvbref@bellsouth.net

David Dufrene (N) Metairie, LA / 504-717-1311 / super2xd@aol.com

Angelle Simms (N) Madisonville, LA / 985-373-1319 / iwiltouchu@aol.com

Regional Automatic National Bid Policy

Purpose: To create a fair and competitive process for all BRVA teams attempting to win the region's automatic national bid(s) to any USAV National Championships.

Process: A qualifying event will be held for any BayouRVA's USAV national automatic bid(s) when there are more teams interested than bids offered.

Policy:

1. A team not properly registered for the USAV national event may not participate in the region qualifying event.
2. A team that has secured a position (through a 'qualifier' or at-large appointment) in a division the same or higher than The Region's automatic national bid may not compete for the region's automatic national bid.
3. Teams that enter the region qualifying event must meet all USAV eligibility requirements for the division they are entering.
4. When there is more than one team entered in the regional qualifying event, all teams participating are committing to attend The National event if they secure the bid.
5. Any bids in any division reallocated by USAV will be offered to teams in descending order of the division offered, based on the results of the region's qualifying event.

Caveat:

1. When any team of a club secures any BayouRVA automatic USAV National Bid and then does not attend the national event;
 - a. when there was one or more other BRVA teams eliminated from securing The Region's bid,
 - b. causing The Region to lose the USAV automatic national bid, regardless of age division, no team from the club will be allowed to compete for any Bayou automatic national bid in any age division in the following season.
 - c. When there is only one team interested in securing The Region's USAV automatic national bid, and then does not attend the national event no region sanction against the club may be necessary.
2. b. Sanctions issued by the BayouRVA may be in addition to any USAV sanctions.