

Chapter

Team and Player Eligibility

4



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ELIGIBILITY RULES - GENERAL

All teams and persons listed on the official entry application forms for participating teams shall be eligible under the rules of the organization they represent, as well as those of USA Volleyball specifically as follows:

1. **ALL** participants (i.e.; players, coaches, managers, trainers, team representatives/officials) must currently be registered as members of USA Volleyball or complete the Limited Membership Form prior to attending the event.
2. Any participant causing disruptive or unfavorable action to USA Volleyball during this Event as determined by the Director of Competition of the Event shall be liable for disciplinary action by the Event Arbitrator. Such disruptive or unfavorable action includes that which occurs at the playing venue or anywhere in the host city during the scheduled event, including pre-event days a participant is in the host city.

NCVF TEAM ELIGIBILITY RULES

1. To be an NCVF Eligible Team, a team must meet the following requirements in addition to other applicable NCVF Rules:
 - a. All participants listed on a team roster must meet individual player eligibility rules specified in the NCVF Player Eligibility Rules section.
 - b. All players listed on a team roster must be enrolled in the same 2-year or 4-year degree-granting college or university in order to be eligible to compete as a team. The NCVF reserves discretion to ascertain the accreditation or status of any degree-granting colleges or universities for team or player eligibility purposes.
 - c. Team rosters may only include (2) Former Varsity Player(s), as defined in NCVF Player Eligibility Rules section. Team rosters may not include any Current Year Varsity Player(s), as defined in the NCVF Player Eligibility Rules section.
 - d. A women's team roster may not include men's players and a men's team roster may not include women. No women players are allowed to compete as a player on a men's team, and no men are allowed to compete as a player on a women's team.
 - e. Teams must be registered in good standing on the NCVF website.
 - f. Teams must cooperate in the timely submission of all team information, including but not limited to roster information, school information, contact information, competition results and other information reasonably requested by the NCVF from time to time.
 - g. For NCVF teams, if a team is not in good standing with their [NCVF Recognized League or Conference](#) or Division shall be presumed to not be in good standing with the NCVF.
 - h. Among other requirements, "good standing" shall include a team's adherence to [NCVF Code of Conduct](#) requirements.
2. The following rules apply to the NCVF National Championship Tournament (the "event"):
 - a. Only teams meeting NCVF eligibility may participate in the NCVF National Championship Tournament.

- b. All teams seeking entry to the event must be actively participating as an NCVF recognized representative volleyball club team from their school during the NCVF Competitive Season.
 - c. All teams must timely submit their current season schedule of competition and results to the respective NCVF men's and women's polling and seeding chairpersons, as specified from time to time on the NCVF website.
 - d. All teams must either be a Registered NCVF Team, as defined in Section 3, below, or fulfill the guidelines of an Independent Team, as defined in Section 3, below, in order to be eligible to participate in the event.
 - e. The NCVF retains discretion to recognize a school's representative sport club teams for purposes of admission to the event.
 - f. The NCVF reserves discretion to reject any competition results from any teams that fail to meet NCVF team or player eligibility requirements.
3. The following rules define NCVF Registered Teams and Independent Teams for purposes of NCVF benefits, NCVF Recognized Competitions and entry into the NCVF National Championship Tournament.
- a. A NCVF Registered Team is an otherwise eligible team that competes in a recognized NCVF Conference, League or Women's Division and has fulfilled the team registration requirements on the NCVF website.
 - b. An Independent Team is a team that does not satisfy the definition of an NCVF Registered Team but is otherwise eligible under NCVF Team Eligibility Rules above. To be eligible to participate in the NCVF national championship tournament, an Independent Team must show evidence of "active participation" during the current competitive season, as follows:
 - i. "Active participation" for men's teams must involve a minimum of two scheduled events after January 1st of the current NCVF season that include competition against at least four or more teams from NCVF recognized conferences at each of those events.
 - ii. "Active participation" for women's teams must involve a minimum of two scheduled events after January 1st of the current NCVF season, involving four or more similar competitive units (teams), with at least two matches being against two different collegiate club teams (not including "B" teams, i.e. a second team from a college or university).
 - iii. It is the sole responsibility of each Independent Team to ensure that their competition results are reported to the designated and applicable NCVF male or female seeding and poll chairpersons within 10 days following a competition or event. The NCVF reserves the right to accept or reject any reported competition results from any Independent Team for any reason.
 - iv. Independent Teams are not entitled to the NCVF member benefits that are available to NCVF Registered Teams.

NCVF PLAYER ELIGIBILITY RULES

- 1.1 Only NCVF Eligible Players may participate on NCVF Eligible Teams.
- 1.2 **University Enrollment Criteria** - To be an NCVF Eligible Player, participants must meet the following requirements:
 - 1.2.1 Except as provided in section (1.24c) below, be an enrolled student with a minimum of 1/2 full-time enrollment as an undergraduate or minimum of six hours as a graduate student at a NCVF recognized 2-year or 4-year degree-granting college or university *throughout the current NCVF Competitive Season*. For purposes of this section, NCVF Registered teams shall be presumed to attending an NCVF recognized 2-year or 4-year degree-granting college or university.
 - a. Beginning in 2011, a participant must be an enrolled student with a minimum of 3/4 full-time enrollment as an undergraduate or minimum of six hours as a classified graduate student at a NCVF recognized 2-year or 4-year degree-granting college or university *throughout the current NCVF Competitive Season*.
 - 1.2.2 All quarter-school participants must meet the eligibility requirements for **both** the winter and spring quarters.
 - 1.2.3 Participants must be listed on the roster of a team that meets the NCVF Team Eligibility Rules.
 - 1.2.4 The following additional participant eligibility criteria apply to all players seeking entry into the NCVF National Championship Tournament :
 - a. If the NCVF National Championship Tournament occurs during an academic break, the preceding semester/quarter will be used to determine eligibility.
 - b. Players must be enrolled for the minimum number of credit hours at least 45 days prior to the start of the NCVF National Championship Tournament.
 - c. Players who are graduating seniors during the semester/quarter of the NCVF National Championship Tournament and are taking less than the required hours to fulfill their graduation requirements, must submit a letter from the school Registrar along with all other required NCVF registration materials stating that the player will be graduating during the same semester/quarter as the NCVF National Championship Tournament. For quarter schools, graduating seniors who have completed graduation requirements during the winter quarter of the current NCVF Competitive Season shall be given a hardship priority allowing them to compete in the NCVF National Championship Tournament so long as they follow the [NCVF Appeal Process](#).
- 1.3 **Current Year Varsity Players** – Current year varsity players are not eligible to participate as roster members of an otherwise NCVF Eligible Team. A Current Year Varsity Player is defined as any player that is listed on the same gender Squad List of a school's varsity volleyball team during the same academic year as the NCVF National Championship Tournament.
 - 1.3.1 The term "Squad List" includes any player listed on the school's same gender NCAA or other applicable varsity clearinghouse list of players for the sport of volleyball for more than three weeks during the same academic year as the NCVF National Championship Tournament.
 - a. Any such player shall be presumed ineligible for all NCVF Recognized Competitions, including the NCVF National Championship Tournament, for the entirety of the corresponding NCVF Competitive Season.

- b. Any player listed on a Squad List during any academic year other than the academic year of the NCVF National Championship Tournament shall be presumed to be a Former Varsity Player, as defined below.

1.4 Former Varsity Players - Former varsity players are eligible to participate on an otherwise NCVF Eligible Team so long as the player meets all NCVF Eligible Player rules. Provided, however that otherwise NCVF Eligible Teams may only include a maximum of two (2) former varsity players on their roster for the entire NCVF Competitive Season, including the NCVF National Championship Tournament.

1.4.1 A former varsity player is defined as any player that is listed on the same gender Squad List of a school's varsity volleyball team for more than three weeks during any academic year other than the academic year of the NCVF National Championship Tournament.

- a. The term "Squad List" includes any player listed on the school's same gender NCAA or other applicable varsity clearinghouse list of players for the sport of volleyball or more than three weeks during any academic year other than the academic year of the NCVF National Championship Tournament.
- b. Any such player shall be presumed to be a former varsity player and may compete in NCVF Recognized Competitions, including the NCVF National Championship Tournament so long as they otherwise meet all NCVF Player Eligibility requirements for the entirety of the corresponding NCVF Competitive Season.

1.4.2 Timely appeals from teams or players seeking exceptions to the current and former varsity player rules will be considered on a case by case basis by the NCVF, pursuant to the [NCVF Appeal Process](#).

1.5 Professional Players - A professional indoor volleyball player is not eligible to participate as a roster member of an otherwise NCVF Eligible Team.

1.5.1 The term "professional indoor volleyball player" is defined as any one or more of the following:

- a. Any volleyball player that has been declared a professional indoor volleyball player by a recognized professional indoor volleyball team or league;
- b. Any volleyball player that has received a salary, wage or regular and periodic payments, directly or indirectly as consideration for playing on an indoor volleyball team.

1.5.2 The NCVF reserves discretion to determine when or if a player has become a professional indoor volleyball player within the meaning of this section.

1.6 Consecutive Years - NCVF Eligible Players are limited to six consecutive years of participation in NCVF Recognized Competitions, including the NCVF National Championship Tournament or other previous national collegiate club volleyball championship tournaments. Year one begins the first year that an NCVF Eligible Player's name appears on a NCVF Eligible Team roster, previous national collegiate club volleyball championship tournament team roster, OR the first year their name was listed on a "Squad List" of any 2-year or 4-year college varsity team.

1.6.1 The term "Squad List" includes any player listed on the school's same gender NCAA or other applicable varsity clearinghouse list of players for the sport of volleyball for more than three weeks during any academic year.

1.6.2 Exceptions to the six year consecutive participation rule may be granted by the NCVF for military, medical, religious service, or other extraordinary circumstances, pursuant to the [NCVF Appeal Process](#).

*NCVF reserves the right to make clarifications to the rules from time to time as needed.

Enrollment Verification Forms: must be brought in person to the on-site registration on Wednesday, March 31 at the Louisville Fair and Exposition Center verifying each participating student's academic status of the institution they are representing.

- Semester Schools: Students from schools that have academic semesters starting during the month of January and continuing through the championships date must be enrolled 1/2 of full-time enrollment as an undergraduate or 6 or more credit hours as a classified graduate student.
- Quarter Schools: Students from schools that have academic quarters must be enrolled 1/2 of full-time enrollment as an undergraduate or six (6) or more credit hours as a classified graduate student during both winter and spring quarters.

Post Event Enrollment Verification: The top four teams in each division and 5 randomly selected teams from each division will be required to fill out and submit a second enrollment verification form following the tournament. This second form must be filled out, signed and stamped by the registrar, and submitted to the NCVF Office between April 12 and May 1. The top four teams/division and those randomly selected must fulfill this requirement. Those teams that fail to submit the second certification form, or have students that are not enrolled in the required number of credits will not be allowed to enter the 2011 NCVF National Collegiate Club Volleyball Championships and will potentially be disqualified from their final finish.

USAV MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT

All persons whose names appear on the Official Roster, including players, coaches, team representatives, trainers, and managers must be registered with USAV by completing a Limited Member Application prior to competing. The purpose of this registration is the extension of USAV's liability insurance program. This will ensure all registered USAV players, coaches, team representatives, managers, and trainers at this Event have liability coverage and Sports Accident Insurance (this is an excess coverage plan). If a medical emergency arises, athletes and coaches must have all necessary documentation to show proof of medical insurance, primary and / or excess coverage.

MEN'S DIVISIONAL RULES

1. No more than one men's team per university/college may enter MDI, MDIAA, or MDII.
2. Up to two teams from the same university/college may enter MDIII.
3. A university/college may not have more than three teams entered in the Championship Tournament.
4. Student enrollment includes undergraduate and graduate students.
5. Submission of appropriate entry forms, including a rosters and a fee for the Championship Tournament constitutes a team's acceptance to play in whichever division the Ranking Committee selects for it providing all information is accepted by the entry deadlines.
6. The Ranking Committee will place teams into divisions based on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - a. Exception - Throughout the season the Ranking Committee will rank the top twenty-five teams. Any team within the top twenty-five at the time of the Championship Tournament entry deadline will have its spot reserved for the division in which it is ranked. That said, if a top twenty-five team registers after the entry deadline, this exception no longer applies.

Example - Fifty teams register for MDI. Team X turns in its entry packet and fee on the entry deadline, and is ranked #10 by the Ranking Committee. Team X is guaranteed a spot in MDI. If Team X registers after the entry deadline, it is not guaranteed a spot in MDI.

MEN'S DIVISIONAL STRUCTURE

1. Men's Division I/IAA (MDI, MDIAA)
 - a. MDI shall consist of forty-eight teams.
 - b. MDIAA may consist of up to thirty-six teams.
 - c. Teams from a four-year university/college with a total student enrollment of 15,000 or more must play in MDI or MDIAA. Total enrollment is full-time undergraduate and full-time graduate students.
 - d. When splitting the divisions, the Ranking Committee will give preference to teams from a university/college with a student enrollment of 15,000 or more.
 - e. Teams from a four-year university/college with a student enrollment less than 15,000 may play in MDI or MDIAA if placed by the Ranking Committee or if space still is available after the entry deadline.
 - f. Teams that are not selected for MDI or MDIAA will remain on the wait list. In no event will a team be permitted to play in MDII or MDIII.
2. Men's Division II (MDII)
 - a. MDII may consist of up to forty-eight teams.

- b. Only teams from a four-year university/college with a student enrollment less than 15,000 may play in MDII. Total enrollment is full-time undergraduate and full-time graduate students.
- c. Teams eligible to participate in MDII may compete in MDI or MDIAA if placed by the Ranking Committee or if space still is available after the entry deadline. If a team that is eligible to participate in MDII elects to play in MDI or MDIAA it vacates its ability to participate in MDII.

Example - Team Y comes from a college with 10,000 students. It is eligible for MDII. Team Y, however, wants to play MDI. Team Y turns in its entry packet and fee on the entry deadline, and is ranked #20 by the Ranking Committee. Team Y is guaranteed a spot in MDI. Team Y selects to play in MDI. Team Y can no longer play in MDII for the current year tournament.

3. Men's Division III (MDIII)

- a. MDIII may consist of up to twenty-four teams.
- b. A team from a two-year university/college is eligible to participate in this division. Such a school may not participate in any other division.
- c. A team from a four-year university/college may participate in this division only if it already entered a team in MDI, MDIAA, or MDII.

Example - Team A, Team B, and Team C come from the same four-year college with 15,000 students. Team A is enrolled in MDI. Team B and Team C now are eligible to participate in MDIII.

Exception – A school's MDI team decides not to attend the Championship Tournament. In this instance, the Ranking Committee will consider accepting that same school's MDIII team.

*NCVF reserves the right to make clarifications to the rules from time to time as needed and to allow teams into divisions in order to fill a tournament division.

WOMEN'S DIVISIONAL RULES

1. No more than one women's team per university/college may enter WDI or WDII.
2. Up to two teams from the same university/college only may enter WDIII.
3. A university/college may not have more than three teams entered in the Championship Tournament.
 - a. A second or third team from the same school will not be ranked for WDI or WDII.
4. Submission of an entry packet and a fee for the Championship Tournament constitutes a team's acceptance to play in whichever division the Ranking Committee selects for it.
5. The Ranking Committee will place teams into divisions based on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - a. Exception - Throughout the season the Ranking Committee will rank the top twenty-five teams. Any team within the top twenty-five at the time of the Championship Tournament entry deadline will have its spot reserved for the division in which it is ranked. That said, if a top twenty-five team registers after the entry deadline, this exception no longer applies.

Example - Fifty teams register for WDI. Team X turns in its entry packet and fee on the entry deadline, and is ranked #10 by the Ranking Committee. Team X is guaranteed a spot in WDI. If Team X registers after the entry deadline, it is not guaranteed a spot in WDI.

WOMEN'S DIVISIONAL STRUCTURE

1. Women's Division I/II (WDI, WDII)
 - a. WDI shall consist of the top forty-eight ranked teams as determined by the Ranking Committee.
 - b. WDII may consist of up to forty-eight teams, which shall consist of the next top forty-eight teams ranked by the Ranking Committee, except for a second or third team from the same university/college.
 - c. Only teams from a four-year university/college may participate in WDI or WDII. A second or third team from the same university/college must play WDIII.
2. Women's Division III (WDIII)
 - a. WDIII may consist of up to thirty-six teams.
 - b. Any team not placed in WDI or WDII will be placed in this division.
 - c. Up to two teams from the same university/school may enter this division.
 - d. Any second or third team from the same school must participate in WDIII.
 - i. Exception - If a school's WDI or WDII team decides not to attend the Championship Tournament, the Ranking Committee will consider accepting that same school's second or third team.
 - e. A team from a two-year university/college is eligible to participate in this division. Such a school may not participate in any other division.

ALUMNI DIVISION RULES

CHAMPIONSHIP STRUCTURE

The National Collegiate Volleyball Federation (NCVF) is inviting all former collegiate club volleyball players from past years to join in separate men's and women's open alumni divisions within the 26th Annual national collegiate club volleyball championships in Louisville, Kentucky, on April 1-3, 2010.

The following rules are applicable to the Men's and Women's Alumni Open Divisions in addition to all other applicable NCVF rules and competition related protocols, formats and requirements. Notwithstanding the specific requirements of these rules, the NCVF reserves the right to reject any player or team at any time.

ALUMNI TEAM ELIGIBILITY

A team is eligible as long as the collegiate club it represents participated for one full season (January -June) as the school's official collegiate club team in either an established college/university club league or in organized intercollegiate club competition recognized by the NCVF. Any team that played prior to 1985 must inquire as to whether its school recognized it as the official student collegiate club volleyball team of that institution.

1. Team rosters may only be comprised of players who meet the eligibility requirements in the *Alumni Player Eligibility* section below. Team rosters are limited to 15 players.
2. Except as provided in these rules, teams must comply with all NCVF tournament related rules and governance procedures (see Pre-Tournament Packet – to be available after Thanksgiving).
3. There is no limit to the number of former intercollegiate players per team, i.e. the Rule of Two will not apply to any team entry.
4. Team rosters may not include currently enrolled students who participated in any portion of the 2010 NCVF season from January through April. Team rosters may include currently enrolled students who have exhausted their NCVF eligibility as well as students who did not participate on their school's club volleyball team in the 2010 NCVF season.
5. A women's team roster may not include men's players and a men's team roster may not include women. No women players are allowed to compete as a player on a men's team, and no men are allowed to compete as a player on a women's team.
6. Teams must cooperate in the timely submission of all team and player information, including, but not limited to roster information as indicated on the entry form and any other information requested in the pre-tournament packet or by the NCVF at any time before or during the event.
7. By submitting a roster and application to participate, a team is representing its chosen institution and that the team and each player meet the requirements specified in these rules. Failure of any player or team to meet these team requirements may result in team or player disqualification, suspension, or other remedies.

ALUMNI PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. Only a player listed on the roster of a team that meets the NCVF Alumni Team Eligibility requirements may participate on that team.
2. A player must have completed a minimum of one academic term, quarter, or semester during the volleyball season with the school club it is representing. The player also must have been academically eligible to participate at that time according to the school's academic requirements. There is no requirement that a player must have graduated from the school he/she is representing.
3. The spirit of this newly created Alumni Division is one of self enforcement – each team is responsible for checking its own player eligibility requirements from the school it is representing. However, the NCVF reserves the right to reject or condition participation at any time for any suspected violation of this requirement, the NCVF Code of Conduct, or if an individual's behavior in any way interferes with the NCVF's administration of the event, whether or not the behavior arises at the playing venue or at any other location that is in any way connected with the event.
4. By submitting its roster, all players agree to abide by the NCVF Code of Conduct.
5. Players are expected to act in a mature and responsible manner when participating in all NCVF Events. By participating in NCVF Events, participants acknowledge that they are ambassadors to the sport of volleyball, both on and off the court. Participants, therefore, will abide by the highest sportsmanship and ethical standards of conduct. Any reports (e.g. from other teams, law enforcement, and/or hotel management) of activities that reflect negatively upon the NCVF may result in sanctions or other appropriate actions.
6. All participants must show evidence of primary health insurance coverage as required in the pre-tournament packet.
7. Although a formal institutional certification process will not be required of player rosters, by having their names submitted on a team roster, each individual on the roster is representing that he/she meets the individual eligibility requirements specified in these rules and that they will abide by all standards imposed on all other participants.
8. By participating, participants acknowledge that there are inherent risks associated with attending or playing in an NCVF Event, including but not limited to risk of injury, including bone, muscular or nerve damage, loss of or damage to personal property and other potential losses or damages. Participants assume liability for injuries or damages in connection with their individual or joint participation in any NCVF Event.
9. By having their name submitted on a team roster, each player agrees to waive all claims against the NCVF, USA Volleyball, their respective officers, directors, agents, representatives and assigns for any matter arising in connection with the administration or application of these rules.

2010 ALUMNI RULES CLARIFICATIONS

1. Because the Alumni Division is a new offering within the structure of the national collegiate volleyball club championships, NCVF reserves the right to post clarifications and adjustment to the alumni team and player rules. The NCVF will make a good faith effort to post all rule changes in pre-tournament information packets and make it available on its web site at ncfvolleyball.org.
2. A player who graduated in December of the current academic year is eligible to compete in the Alumni Division even if enrolled during the club's regular season (January – June) and otherwise meets player eligibility requirements.

3. Teams may collectively consist of players from any former “A” or “B” teams or conglomerate entries from any era.
4. There is no requirement that an otherwise eligible player must have graduated from the school being represented.
5. Players who attended more than one institution and played collegiate club volleyball at more than one school can only play on one of those institutional teams.
6. Players need not be members of its institution’s Alumni Association.
7. There is no stipulation as to who is allowed to coach an Alumni team or that an entered Alumni team must have a coach.
8. Designated coaches of current Alumni teams or former coaches of collegiate club teams are not allowed to compete for that team or any other team unless they have fulfilled the *Alumni Player Eligibility* section above.
9. Participation in the Alumni Division will not affect any player’s remaining eligibility under the 6-year rule should a player have graduated or is taking time off and is not enrolled and involved with a collegiate club team during the current club regular season.
10. Among other documentation, the NCVF may require at the player’s expense a copy of any player’s transcript or diploma.
11. Uniform requirements: USAV Playing Rule Book 4.3.1 - *The color and design for the jerseys and shorts must be uniform for the team (except for the Libero)*. Additional clarification can be found under NCVF Rules of play <http://ncfvolleyball.org/RulesofPlay.aspx>. However, for this inaugural Alumni Tournament, uniform requirements shall include matching jerseys with 4” or greater numbers on the front and 6” or greater numbers on the back, both centered. Shorts or spandex must be similar in color. The Libero’s jersey must be contrasting in color to its own team members jerseys. **Note:** If purchasing brand new jerseys, request 6” numbers centered on the front and 8” numbers centered on the back. If obtaining hand-me-down jerseys or original jerseys from the past that have 4” & 6” numbers respectively, these jerseys will be accepted.

ETHICS AND ELIGIBILITY VIOLATIONS

Event Arbitrators: Event Arbitrators shall serve as the first level for hearing and resolving ethics and eligibility issues at a specific event. Teams or individuals accused of committing violations of ethics and / or eligibility rules and regulations at qualifying and / or championship events shall meet with the Event Arbitrator(s). The authority for the Event Arbitrator to act begins with the arrival of a team and individual participants in the Championship city, or 48 hours prior to the first day of competition, whichever is earlier, and shall continue through the duration of the Event through its conclusion.

Decisions of the Event Arbitrator shall be conveyed immediately to the affected parties. A decision of the Event Arbitrator may be appealed to the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee.

Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee: An Event Ethics Committee shall be formed for championship event. The committee shall be composed of three (3) members.

The committee shall act on appeals of ethics decisions that occur during the conduct of the event. The conduct of an event shall commence when an individual or a team arrives at the site of the event, or forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the first day of competition for that event, whichever is earlier, and shall conclude with the departure of the individual and / or team from the city in which the event has been held.

If the Committee is of the opinion that the violation is of such a nature that it requires further review or more serious discipline beyond the duration of the National Championship event, the committee will send a report to the Commissioner and University Representative. That Commissioner and University representative will notify the Ethics Committee of the actions (if any) that were taken as a result of the report.

All eligibility questions or issues that arise in reference to team or player eligibility will be reviewed and decided onsite by the NCVF Compliance Committee.

Protests or questions relevant to the conduct of all tournaments shall be referred to the Championship Committee on site. Decisions rendered by the Competition Commissioner are final and cannot be appealed.