

Chapter 5: Attending Tournaments

1. Prepping Your Team and Coach for Tournaments

Prior to the start of the tournament season, hold a coach/parent/player meeting to discuss the expectations at tournaments. The players and parents should be made aware of the timing to show up, the length of the tournament day, food for their athlete during the day, taking any team camp trash home to dispose of or recycle, the referee responsibilities of the team during the day, the necessity to stay through the last match of the division and, very important, the code of conduct for parents and players at the tournament.

Provide a team roster from SportsEngine to the head coach for each tournament. They will be required to give the roster to the site director at check in.

2. Purple Card Policy

The Arizona Region has established a Purple Card Policy for parent/spectator behavior. The issuance of a purple card to a team parent/spectator can result in a warning, the loss of a point or ejection from the facility. Parents/spectators are to be positive cheerleaders for their team. It is not part of the game to yell at or intimidate officials - including junior line judges or scorers, opponents' team members, junior ref team crew or other parents.

Review all AZ Region Policies in the AZ Region Policies Manual on the AZ Region website Handbook. There are policies related to Junior Clubs and Tournaments that should be reviewed. There are penalties associated with some policies related to tournaments.

3. Team Check In - For every Region tournament, there is a check in process for the team/coach. There is a coach's meeting prior to the start of every Region tournament. The coach's meeting is held $\frac{1}{2}$ hour prior to the first match start time of the division. The team is to be checked in by the coach and the coach must attend the coach's meeting. There are team point penalties if the coach does not check in prior to and attend the coach's meeting. At check in, the coach is to provide a picture id, a printed roster to be given to the site director - they do not get this back, and show that they have the medical release forms with them. A current team roster is required from SportsEngine or AES, if the roster was entered into that system as well. All teams should be on site prior to the first match of the division. If the team is not scheduled to play the first match of the division and they don't show up prior to the coach's meeting, they could be forfeited out of the tournament as a no-show. If there is a no-show team, the format changes and all teams will be playing or reffing every match.

4. Check Arizona Region Website for Tournament Information

The Arizona Region will attempt to post the tournament schedule on their website 5-8 days prior to the tournament. This will include tournament pools, sites and start times. Please check the site again 2 days prior to the tournament to see if there have been any changes. Changes made 2 days prior and later will be followed by a phone call to the coach(s) of the teams involved in the change. If the tournament information is not posted 5 days prior, please be patient. That means there is a problem. Once the problem is solved, the information will be posted. It is our intent to post the tournament info on Monday prior to the tournament.

The tournament and format will be put into AES and published by Wednesday of each week. If it is not up, please be patient. We never hold information if we have it. If it is not up, there is something that is not confirmed - this would keep us from publishing information that might change.

5. National Tournaments

Most of the national tournaments have online registration procedures. These can take time to set up, so do not wait. Most of the National Qualifiers will fill up months before the deadline. Check the tournament website in August and September of the tournament you are planning to attend for registration information. Prompt reply to registration announcements may help aide in the acceptance to the tournaments. In addition, there are several differences that exist between the Junior Girls and Junior Boys Divisions with respect to tournament play.

Junior Girls Qualifying Process

National Qualifiers are the avenue to attend the Jr. National Championships for junior girls' teams. In order to participate in "Jr. Nationals" a team must meet the requirements for qualifications as determined by USA Volleyball.

The Arizona Region holds its own National Club Qualifier Tournament in the spring for junior girls' teams to fill the bids given to the Arizona Region to fill. Any team from the AZ Region that has not already qualified at a National Qualifier may enter and compete for the AZ Region bid to the National, American and Freedom Divisions of the Girls Jr. Nationals. We are given one bid in each tournament in each of the following age groups: 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U and 18U. The number of bids awarded to each Region is dependent on the number of players registered in the respective age groups the PRIOR season. There are no Freedom bids available in the 13s and younger age groups. Girls 11U is only to the National Division.

Girls' National Invitational tournaments are inter-regional tournaments that are not connected with the Junior National Championships. Popular invitational tournaments include the Fiesta MLK Classic and Vulture Peak Challenge. There is no qualification process to enter these tournaments. Any team may enter as long as the tournament entry requirements are met and the tournament is not full.

Junior Boys Qualifying Process

Junior boys have a national qualification process for the Open and USA Divisions of Jr. Nationals. Teams must attend a Bid Tournament and finish in a qualifying position - the number of bids awarded per tournament depends on the number of entries in the tournament and is different for each tournament. Teams that attended but did not earn a bid are allowed to apply for an At Large entry into the Open Division.

The Arizona Region also holds a Boys Qualifier to fill the Boys American bid to Jr Nationals in the 16s and 18s divisions.

Additional junior boy's teams are encouraged to enter the Jr. National Championships in the Club Division.

Boys' National Invitational tournaments are inter-regional tournaments that are not connected with the Junior National Tournament. There is no qualification process. Any team may enter as long as the tournament entry requirements are met by the established deadlines.