



# Region Handbook



**Last Updated 09-14-2011**

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## *Dedication*

*This publication is lovingly dedicated to  
Merton H. Kennedy*

*Mert was inducted into the Volleyball Hall Fame and earned almost every award that is presented by and for USA Volleyball. He was the greatest FAN the game has ever had or will ever have. His experience and knowledge of the game were unsurpassed.*

*Without Mert's assistance and trailblazing to develop and nurture the game we all love, this Region would not be the beacon of leadership and competition that it is today. His famous "Lawson Digest" was one of the original newsletters dedicated to volleyball, which he continued from the Evanston YMCA. Mert also initiated many of the programs that we all enjoy today.*

*To honor Mert's contributions to the sport, a tournament bearing his name was dedicated in April 1998. The "Mert Kennedy Invitational" then became an annual region event each April.*

*Mert passed away on March 22, 2000, but his legacy remains strong in the Great Lakes Region. He is fondly remembered as the world's foremost volleyball fan and "Godfather" to this Region.*

*His sense of humor, wisdom and kindness will forever be missed.*

## **A Brief History of the Great Lakes Region of USA Volleyball**

Originally the United States Volleyball Association (USVBA) was divided into thirteen Regions. The current Great Lakes Region was part of Region 7; at that time regions had numbers, not names. Region 7 included the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin. Richard Caplan, "Cappy" was one of our commissioners during this era as was Phil Mazur.

In 1977 a group of local volleyball leaders petitioned USVBA to become a separate entity (Region). Those visionaries were Pete Dunn, Merton Kennedy, Lea Wagner, Alan J. Feder, Dorothy Boyce, Bertha Lucas and Harold Peterson. The paperwork was presented and accepted, so in 1978 the Great Lakes Region (GLR) was born. This newly developed Region consisted of Illinois and Wisconsin. From that point on, all regions in USVBA took on names instead of numbers.

The Great Lakes Region's first Commissioner was Pete Dunn. Don Murphy's Midland Chemical and Bertha Lucas' Chicago Rebels were the first men's and women's regional champions, respectively.

In 1979 we experienced growth in the entire program, and a typical season had approximately 25 to 30 adult tournaments.

In 1980 Wisconsin became its own region, Lakeland; but even with this reorganization, the GLR grew.

In 1981 the Region, realizing the need for separate and numerous tournaments for junior girls, began a junior girls' program. At that time no formal program for junior boys existed in the GLR.

In 1982 GLR hosted its first Co-ed Adult Championships and also expanded the adult competition divisions into AA, A and B for both men and women. Junior girls' tournaments were expanded to equal the number of adult tournaments.

In 1983 the Region began to intensify its program for training officials. At that time GLR had ten National Referees, eleven Regional Referees and two National Scorekeepers.

A Junior Girls' Regional Championship was held, and our first champions were Rick Butler's 19 and under Sports Performance VBC, Rick Butler's 17 and under Sports Performance VBC and Jim Fitzgerald's 15 and under Spikettes.

1983 saw another membership growth spurt and three of the Region's officials (Lea Wagner, Donna Mathias and Linda Vetter) were selected to be part of the officiating crew for the Los Angeles Olympic Games.

In 1985 the Region expanded again and formed a Board of Directors (BOD) adding Player Representatives for each division of competition. International exhibitions were

successfully hosted in the Region. The newsletter became a regular publication rather than an “Event Notification Circular.”

In 1986 Barry Dragon became the Region’s first International Arbitre; he was also the region’s Officials’ Chair. The number of officials doubled and the region ran tournaments every weekend for adults and junior girls.

In 1987 GLR had so many adult teams/tournaments that the A division was split into a high and low category, which continued for many years until a BB division was formed. Also, three junior girls’ representatives were added to the BOD.

During the 1988 season, officials’ numbers doubled and there was continued growth in all areas.

In 1991 the Lakeland Region disbanded and the southern portion of Wisconsin returned to be part of the Great Lakes Region. The northern section of Wisconsin joined North Country Region.

1992 and 1993 saw an explosion of tournaments for all divisions and the introduction of competition for Junior Boys. A Region Tournament Director was appointed and the balanced scheduling of all events began to take shape.

In 1994 the Gateway Region emerged and petitioned to have the southern part of Illinois included within its regional boundaries. This petition was granted by the national office and Great Lakes Region became half of its previous geographical size; however, the phenomenal growth of volleyball continued in the region.

In 1995 Wisconsin broke away again and formed the Badger Region. Great Lakes was now only the northern portion of Illinois, although some clubs playing near the western borders opted to become members in the Iowa Region for convenience and less travel time.

In 2004 the Region hit another milestone – 10,000 members!

In 2007 the Region membership grew to 12,300.

On August 23, 2008, over 100 friends and family celebrated the retirement of Commissioner Lea Wagner after 30 years of service. Lea’s name has become synonymous with volleyball, as Lea has received every major award USA Volleyball can bestow, including the highest award of all, the prestigious Friar Award. Her accomplishments and service to the sport are unparalleled. Lea had many “firsts” - first Woman National Official, first woman to officiate a Men’s Open Final, and first Vice President of the Officials’ Division of USA Volleyball. The Region is forever grateful for all of the hard work, dedication and service that Lea Wagner has given.

Today the Region enjoys the highest membership in all of USA Volleyball, considering our actual geographic borders, with approximately 14,000 members. GLR continues to grow and adjust its programs to fit the demands and needs of its members. The Region hosts over 600 junior tournaments and approximately 100 adult tournaments yearly. The

GLR has won numerous awards and National Championships. It leads the way in many national programs and is a proud a leader in grass roots programs. We have one of the strongest officials' training programs in the country and boast a cadre of 24 National, 13 Junior National, 59 Regional and 78 Provisional officials.

Last but certainly not least, the Great Lakes Region is in full compliance with national requirements of publications, membership reports, financial obligations and national meeting attendance.

Great Lakes is truly "Great"!

Acknowledgements: Thanks to Sandy Abbinanti, Joel Anderson, Denis Bergstedt, Angelo Iasillo, Mary Malpede, Paula McAleese Donna Smith and Lea Wagner for their contributions to this publication.

## **USA Volleyball**

USA Volleyball (USAV) is a non-profit corporation and the National Governing Body (NGB) of volleyball in the United States.

USA Volleyball is a charter member of the Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) and a member of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC).

The USA Men's and Women's National teams and all related programs are under the auspices of USA Volleyball. Services provided by USAV include youth and junior development; regional, zonal, and national competition; coaching education; officials' education; Armed Forces and overseas units competition; and providing a resource for all volleyball in the United States.

At the 2008 Olympics USA Volleyball won these titles:

Gold Medal – Men, Indoor

Gold Medal – Men, Beach

Gold Medal – Women, Beach

Silver Medal – Women, Indoor

Silver Medal – Women, Paralympics, Coached by Great Lakes Region BOD member,  
Mike Hulett

The website for USA Volleyball is [www.usavolleyball.org](http://www.usavolleyball.org)

### **Great Lakes Region (GLR), a recognized Region Volleyball Association (RVA) of USA Volleyball**

#### **Membership Benefits**

##### **The Great Lakes Region**

- Provides sanctioned tournaments with certified officials.
- Allows members to participate in nationwide USAV competition.
- Makes available Sport Accident and Liability Insurance through USA Volleyball.
- Makes available Site Insurance through USA Volleyball.
- Offers yearly Increased Mastery and Professional Application of Coaching Theory (IMPACT) certification clinics for coaches.
- Offers yearly officiating clinics.
- Offers a certification process for new officials.
- Offers yearly coaching clinics at the Extravaganza.
- Provides on line clinics to existing coaches.
- Provides Domestic Competition Regulation (DCR) rule books biennially.
- Provides the USA Volleyball Official Guidebook annually.
- Writes online Newsletters.
- Provides an updated website [www.greatlakesvolleyball.org](http://www.greatlakesvolleyball.org).
- Provides online, updated copies of the GLR Bylaws handbook, tournament director's handbook and official's handbook.
- Offers Regional Championships each season.
- Makes available links to hotels at the GLR member prices.

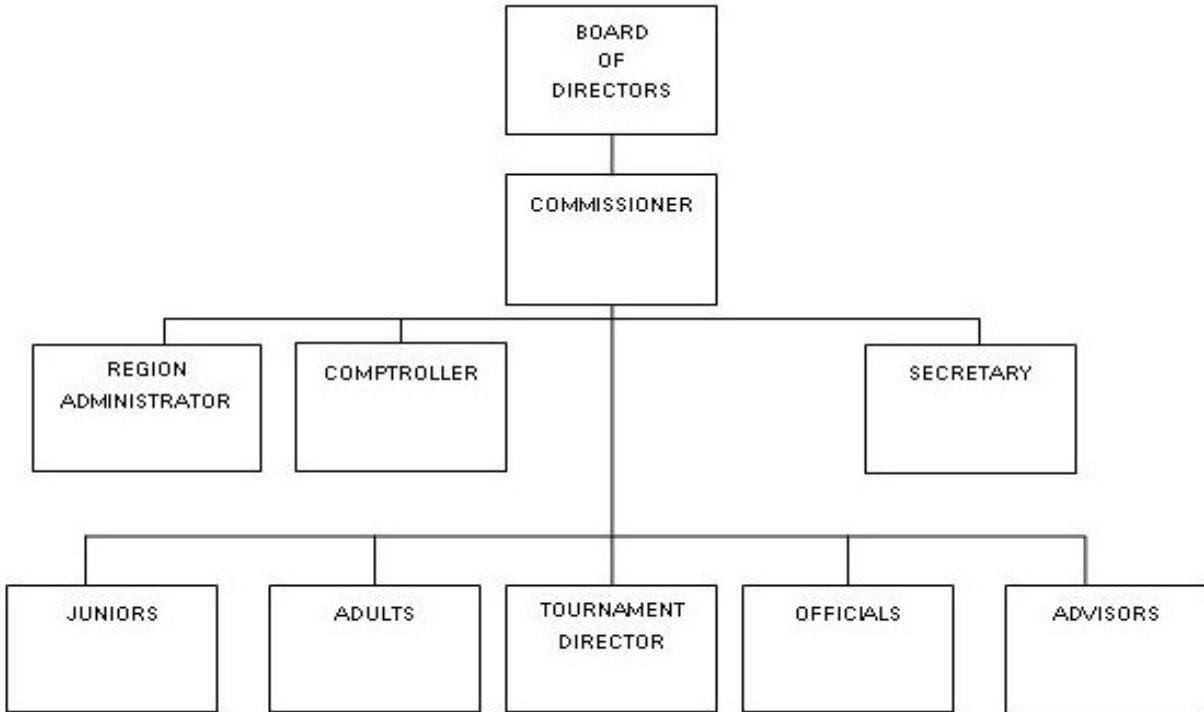
## **Mission Statement**

- To promote and develop the sport of volleyball
- To provide clinics and seminars in coaching, playing and officiating
- To conduct and encourage competition within the GLR
- To act as the official representative of USA Volleyball within the geographical area assigned
- To ensure compliance with USA Volleyball and the GLR rules and regulations

## **Goals**

- To grow the sport of volleyball at all levels within the Great Lakes Region of USA Volleyball
- To provide necessary support services for the conduct of quality programs
- To develop and maintain a structure that is fiscally sound and able to achieve the mission of the corporation

# Great Lakes Region Organizational Chart



## **Officers**

Commissioner, Region Administrator, Comptroller and Secretary

### **Voting Board Members (BOD)**

Girls age division player reps: 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, and 13/12 (6 reps)

Boys age division player reps: 18/17, 16/15, and 14/13/12 (3 reps)

Male player representatives (2 reps)

Female player representatives (2 reps)

Officials' Chair, Legal Advisor, Past Commissioner as an Advisor, and Region  
Tournament Director (4 reps)

### **Non Voting Board Members (BOD)**

Adult Tournament Director, Adult Seeding Chair, Webmaster and Assignment Chair

GLR seeks leadership in a democratic fashion; officers are elected to office by a vote of a majority of the Great Lakes Region Board of Directors. Player reps are elected to office by a majority vote of club directors and shall serve a two-year term or until a successor is appointed. All other BOD Members are appointed by the commissioner (except for the Past Commissioner's position) and subject to a majority vote of the Directors.

Officers and BOD members are selected without regard to race, color, religion or national origin and are reasonably representative of males and females.

There shall be no limit on the number of terms an individual may serve as an Officer, Director or BOD member.

### **Powers and Duties of Officers**

- Commissioner: Serve as Chair of the BOD, preside at all meetings, have general charge of the affairs of the Corporation and have other duties as may be authorized by the BOD.
- Region Administrator: Preside at any meeting when the Commissioner is absent.
- Comptroller: Keep or direct another to keep the accounting records of the Corporation, prepare financial statements and ensure compliance of GLR financial policy.

## **Board of Directors Member's Duties**

- Be a registered member of the GLR and USA Volleyball.
- Act in the best interest of the corporation.
- Attend a majority of the board and committee meetings and functions, such as special events.
- Be informed about the corporation's mission, services, policies and programs.
- Review agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings.
- Serve on committees or task forces and offer to take on special assignments.
- Suggest possible nominees to the board who can make significant contributions to the work of the board and the corporation.
- Keep current on development in the field of volleyball.
- Stand aside when there is a conflict of interest.
- Act in accordance with confidentiality policies.
- Be involved in the due process procedure.
- Assist the board in carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities, such as reviewing the corporation's annual financial statements.
- Make sure that the corporation follows the law.
- Attend a majority of the board meetings as an indication of the director's level of dedication to the organization.

### **Duty of Loyalty**

A board member must never use information gained through his or her position for personal gain and must always act in the best interest of the corporation.

### **Duty of Obedience**

A board member must be faithful to the corporation's mission. He or she cannot act in any way that is inconsistent with the corporation's goals. The board member is trusted by the public to manage funds to fulfill the corporation's mission.

### **Quorum**

In order to transact Great Lakes Region BOD business, there shall be a quorum (a majority of voting members from the BOD).

### **Participants' Conduct**

All participants; e.g., players, coaches, managers, team trainers, officials, teams and others, who are involved in sanctioned competition shall be registered with the

Corporation (USA Volleyball) and a Regional Volleyball Association (Great Lakes Region) as specified in Article VII of the USAV Operating Code.

Participants must know the “Domestic Competition Regulations” and abide by them.

Participants must know and abide by the rules and regulations set forth in the current official Guidebook.

Participants must accept the referee’s decisions with sportsmanlike conduct and without dispute. In case of doubt, a clarification of the rules may be requested only through the game captain. For the 14 and under age groups, the coach may act as the captain when seeking clarification.

Participants must behave respectfully in the spirit of “fair play” not only towards the officials but also towards opponents, teammates, coaches and spectators.

## **Guidelines for Junior Club Personnel**

- All coaches must be registered members of GLR USA Volleyball.
- All head coaches must be eighteen (18) years of age or older.
- All adults (individuals 18 and older) associated with a junior club must have mandatory biennial background checks.
- All coaches must have their IMPACT certification prior to any involvement, including practices, with any junior team. Coaches cannot be added to a roster until they are IMPACT certified and have a valid background screen conducted by the approved USAV contracted search provider.
- All coaches are encouraged to pursue CAP certification. Visit the USAV web site for more information: [www.usavolleyball.org](http://www.usavolleyball.org).
- All coaches must acknowledge through an electronic signature in Webpoint (USAV official registration system) that they have read and understand the USA Volleyball Junior Club Personnel Code of Ethics. All coaches must also have a signed “Signature Page” on record in the GLR office acknowledging that they have read and understand the GLR Club Personnel Policies. This document can be found in Webpoint as an additional link associated to membership records or by downloading it from the Publications link on the Region Website under forms and Juniors.
- Club Directors/Coaches must inform players and their parent(s)/guardian(s) of the USA Volleyball/ Great Lakes Region Transfer Policy. This policy prohibits a player from transferring to another club once that player has represented a club in a USA Volleyball sanctioned event. If there are extenuating circumstances surrounding this transfer request, the request shall be sent to the Commissioner.

- A certified adult coach must be present during all practices, during team-supervised travel and during competition. This coach is responsible for the legal, moral and ethical atmosphere and activities during all team events.
- No club personnel shall allow, encourage, condone or require any behavior that threatens a player's High School, USA Volleyball or collegiate eligibility.

## **Policies**

### **USAV Great Lakes Region Junior Recruiting Policies**

**Club Personnel is defined as follows:**

- A registered adult member of a Junior Club in the Great Lakes Region, including but not limited to club directors, coaches and chaperones

**Prospective Club Player is defined as follows:**

- A junior athlete who solicits information about a club either personally or through his or her parent/guardian
- A junior athlete who did not play with any USAV Junior Club in the previous season
- A junior athlete who has never played USAV Junior Club

**Committed Club Player is defined as follows:**

- A junior athlete who was a registered member and has played in a USAV Sanctioned event in the current season
- A junior athlete who has played with a USAV Junior Club in the previous season

*Note: A prospective OR committed junior athlete may solicit information from any club either personally or through his or her parent/guardian.*

**Marketing is defined as follows:**

- A legal tool of promoting a USAV Junior Club through flyers, brochures, newspaper ads, direct mailing to an entire demographic area when addressed to “occupant,” camps, clinics or private lessons
- *No unsolicited information may be given concerning a Junior Club when holding a camp, clinic or private lesson.*

**Recruitment is prohibited and defined as follows:**

- Personal correspondence with a committed USAV Junior Club player via mail, email, telephone, text message, fax or face-to-face contact

“Volleykids” are not classified as regular members and therefore are not governed by the recruiting policy.

## **Junior Age Waiver Policy**

All junior membership is based on the age (birth date) of an individual, not his or her grade in school. Each year’s current age definitions are posted on the USA Volleyball and Great Lakes Region website. To find this information go to [www.greatlakesvolleyball.org](http://www.greatlakesvolleyball.org) under the Publications link; then click Forms; then click Junior and look for “Age Definitions.”

Age waivers may be granted in exceptional circumstances only. These waived players may only participate in GLR sanctioned events, not in Region Championships, USA Volleyball Qualifiers or USAV National Tournaments. Contact Sandy Abbinanti, the Region Commissioner, for more information. [sabbinanti@comcast.net](mailto:sabbinanti@comcast.net)

Directors, when requesting an age waiver, please include the full name, address, age, date of birth, year in school and name of school for the player. The forms are available on the GLR website under the publications link.

Teams interested in competition in any GLR sanctioned leagues must meet the individual requirements set forth by the League Director, the GLR Region and USAV.

Teams desiring to compete in the USA Volleyball Boys or Girls Championships must qualify through the National Qualifiers/Bid Tournaments **or** be awarded one of the regional slots. No age waived players are allowed on teams in these in these events.

## Suggested Junior Tryout Policy

Please refer to the Indiana High School Association for information regarding high school players from Indiana.

### Dates:

- Boys-- First Tuesday following Labor Day
- Girls 14 and under age divisions – October 1
- Girls Non-Varsity Illinois High School Association Players– Last Sunday in October
- Girls Varsity Illinois High School Association Players – After their high school is eliminated from IHSA State Competition.

Girls' age groups 15, 16, 17 and 18: Athletes who are still competing or practicing with their high school team SHOULD NOT partake in any athletic fitness or skill testing at a club tryout. Athletes may attend and sign up for the tryout to let the club know of their interest and then arrange for a tryout after completing their high school season. Any club asking or requiring an athlete who is still in any phase of their high school season should be reported to the Commissioner, Sandy Abbinanti immediately. [sabbinanti@comcast.net](mailto:sabbinanti@comcast.net)

Please note that it is not mandatory that an athlete even attend a tryout if the athlete desires to commit to a club and the club is willing to accept that athlete.

## USAV Chaperone Policy

Chaperones are expected to assist the coach and players both on and off the court. They are an important part of each team, helping to make events enjoyable for all. USAV strongly recommends registering TWO (2) Chaperones per team. (Chaperones are **REQUIRED** for teams competing in the Junior National Championships and strongly recommended for all other sanctioned tournaments)

The designated chaperone must meet the following eligibility requirements for the USA Junior National Championships:

- Register as a member of USAV and the Great Lakes Region via the registration system called Webpoint and have a current background screen in force.
- Acknowledge through an electronic signature in Webpoint (USAV official registration system) that he or she has read and understand the USA Volleyball Junior Club Personnel Code of Ethics.
- Be responsible for only one team concurrently.
- Be a minimum of 25 years of age on the first day of an event.

- Be housed with the team.
- Read, sign and submit a copy of the Chaperone Responsibility Form.

Duties of the chaperone listed on the “Chaperone Responsibility Form” are as follows:

1. As an assigned driver transporting players to and from an event, I will obey all traffic laws and will not take any driving risks that will place the players or me in a harmful situation. All players as well as myself will wear seatbelts while in the automobile.
2. If using my personal automobile for transporting players, I understand that I am responsible for any accidents or injuries to my automobile, myself or to the players. I agree to have automobile liability insurance in the amount of \$300,000 or more covering the automobile I will use to transport players. I agree not to transport more players than my automobile has seatbelts for.
3. I will have a meeting with the players I am chaperoning to discuss the following:
  - a. Room accommodations - player responsibilities and conduct
  - b. Curfew
  - c. Check-in requirements with you if the players are going to leave the hotel.
  - d. Review of departure times and team activity agenda times.
  - e. Alcohol, tobacco and illegal drug restrictions.
  - f. Team meals.
4. I will refrain from using alcoholic beverages while conducting my chaperone responsibilities. I will absolutely not drink and drive myself or any players while acting as a chaperone. If for any reason I feel impaired to chaperone, drive, or carry out any of my responsibilities I will personally contact the team coach or manager and advise him/her of my impairment.
5. I will do everything that is reasonable and prudent to ensure the safety of myself and the players while performing any chaperone duties.
6. As a chaperone, I understand that I am working under the direction of the Club, Regional Volleyball Association or USA Volleyball Association. Any *General Liability* insurance available to the Club, Regional Association or USA Volleyball Association (excluding auto insurance) is also made available to me while working on behalf of or at the direction of the Club, Regional Association or USA Volleyball. I understand that I may be personally responsible and liable for any of my actions that fall outside the scope of authority granted to me by the Club, Regional Association, or USA Volleyball.

## **Adult At Large Players' Policy**

This policy allows individuals to register At Large (players not associated with any particular team) as GLR members. These players are posted under the Adult Info link and can be accessed by selecting "players" from the left menu. A listing of eligible At Large players is posted to allow teams who need of a fill-in for a tournament to see player contact information (name, phone and email). Also included is the division and position of the player. Once an At Large player participates twice with a specific team or club, that player becomes a member of that club or team.

## **Adult Club Policy**

By definition, a club is a maximum of two teams organized for the same mutual aim or pursuit.

## **Adult Rule of Two Policy**

Each team/club can pull two (2) adult GLR, USA Volleyball, registered players (in good standing), same sex, same division (or lower) to play in any regular season Adult GLR tournament from any team that is either not playing on that date or from a team that is playing on that date but has prior written approval of the team rep and the Region Administrator. At Large players are also available for the rule of two. A team can pick up a player (or two players) from another registered team, or one At Large player or two At Large players or two players from different teams.

The Adult Club Policy and the Adult Rule of Two Policy do not apply to the Region Championships and are special rules for tournaments sanctioned within the Great Lakes Region.

The USA Volleyball uniform rule still applies when using the rule of two.

The team rep is responsible for making sure that all players are registered members and in "good standing" in the Region.

## **Illegal Drug/ Alcohol Policy**

A member is in violation of USAV and GLR rules if he or she illegally transports, possesses, and/or uses drugs or other banned substances.

The police will be called for any USAV member caught consuming alcohol or using illegal drugs at any GLR playing or practice site.

Any member found guilty of violating this policy will be suspended for a minimum of one playing season.

## **Officiating Policy**

No personal electronic devices are allowed for the officiating team (R1, R2, Line Judges and the scoring team). If caught using an electronic device while officiating, the USAV member may be asked, at the discretion of the Tournament Director, to leave the event.

Only registered members of USAV are allowed to perform any of the officiating duties during a sanctioned USAV event.

## **Violence, Theft and/or Vandalism Policy**

Violence, theft and/or vandalism will not be tolerated. In all situations the police will be called and charges will be pressed. Great Lakes USAV will suspend for a minimum of one year any USAV member found guilty of violating this policy. Restitution may be part of any penalty imposed.

## **Fireworks, Ammunition, Firearms or Weapons Policy**

Possession of fireworks, ammunition, firearms, weapons or any item or material which by commonly accepted practices and principals is a hazard or harmful to other persons are prohibited. Great Lakes USAV will suspend for a minimum of one year any USAV member found guilty of violating this policy.

## **Disciplinary Procedures and Guidelines**

Any USAV member found to be in violation of any of the following rules or regulations is subject to whatever disciplinary action is deemed appropriate by the authorized person, persons, Boards or committees of the Great Lakes Region and/or USA Volleyball.

A sanction may be issued by the Commissioner, Region Administrator, or BOD member responsible for that part of the program or by majority vote of the GLR Board of Directors. A sanction may be based upon a violation of any of, but not limited to, the following prohibited actions:

- Illegal transport, illegal possession or illegal use of drugs or other substances banned by the Great Lakes Region or USA Volleyball
- Use of a recognized identification card by anyone other than the individual described on the card
- Physical damage to a facility or theft of items from a facility, room, dormitory, residence or another person (Restitution may be part of any penalty imposed.)

- Possession of fireworks, ammunition, firearms, other weapons or any item or material which by commonly accepted practices and principals is a hazard or harmful to other persons
- Any action considered to be an offense under Federal, State or local laws
- Violation of specific policies, regulations and/or procedures of the Great Lakes Region, USAV or the facility used in conjunction with a sanctioned event (It is the responsibility of the individual to be familiar with applicable specific policies, regulations and procedures.)
- Conduct which is inappropriate as determined by comparison to normally accepted behavior
- Physical or verbal intimidation of any individual
- Violation of eligibility or membership rules per USA Volleyball and/or Great Lakes Region documents
- Illegal recruiting
- Violation of the USAV “Age Falsification” policy
- Any acts that may be deemed contrary to the fundamental objectives, integrity or best interests of the Great Lakes Region or the United States Volleyball Association.

Disciplinary procedures may be initiated for anyone. The Region requires that all allegations be made on the Alleged Allegation Form sent within seven (7) days of knowledge of the incident and submitted to the Officer or BOD member responsible for that specific phase of the program.

NOTE: These forms may be found on the Great Lakes Region website. [www.greatlakesvolleyball.org](http://www.greatlakesvolleyball.org) under the Publications link and forms.

## **Disciplinary Actions**

Any individual or group of individuals found to have violated USA Volleyball or Great Lakes Region ethics, rules, guidelines, policies and/or procedures or found guilty of an offense under Federal, State or local laws shall be subject to any of the following disciplinary actions:

- Warning – admonition against a repeat violation
- Probation – a warning that a further violation within a specified period of time might result in a discipline
- Suspension – removal of eligibility for participation in events, programs and activities for a specified period of time
- Expulsion – revoked membership

## **Alleged Allegation Procedures**

Any action considered to be an offense under Federal, State or local laws must be reported immediately to the police. The Region Commissioner must be notified, of these illegal actions within twenty-four (24) hours of knowledge of the situation. The Region Commissioner will immediately suspend the individual involved in this type of situation.

- All other alleged violations of GLR's Disciplinary Procedures and Guidelines Policy are to be reported in writing to the Region Commissioner within seven (7) days of knowledge of the violation using the "Report of Allegations" form found on the Great Lakes Region website under publications and then forms.
- All allegations must be submitted in writing and must include a clear and complete statement of the allegation; all appropriate information including the name(s), address, and phone number(s) of the involved individual(s); the action being requested; and the signature and date of the individual filing the allegation

The reporting individual then has no longer than seven (7) days to further investigate the alleged violation and report back to the Region Commissioner in writing (using the "Investigation Report of Allegations" form found on the Great Lakes website under Publications and then Forms)

If the allegation is properly submitted, the Commissioner shall contact the Compliance Committee and inform the Chair of the allegation within forty-eight (48) hours.

The Compliance Committee Chair or his delegate gathers information and notifies the individual, team or club that is named in the allegation.

This committee has a minimum of fourteen (14) business days to investigate the allegations. A hearing shall be held for the purpose of determining the facts surrounding the allegation. Such a hearing may be conducted in person, by telephone, by mail or by electronic mail.

A written statement of the decision from the Compliance Committee will be sent to the Region Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours following the investigation.

The Region Commissioner will review all information, discuss the findings with the Compliance Committee and make a decision concerning the alleged violation. Possible outcomes could include sanctions ranging from warning to expulsion or a dismissal of the case due to insufficient evidence as ruled by the Region Commissioner and/or Compliance Committee.

## **Ethics and Eligibility Committee**

The Ethics and Eligibility Committee is composed of three individuals from the Board of Directors. The committee will be comprised of any two available BOD members as well as a chair appointed by the Commissioner.

One of the duties of the Ethics and Eligibility Committee is to conduct all appeals hearings. The Commissioner and Region Administrator shall not serve on the Ethics and Eligibility Committee.

### **Appeals Process- Ethics and Eligibility Committee**

A sanctioned member has seven (7) business days to appeal. This is done through a written communication (FAX, email or by the US Postal Service) to the Chair of the Great Lakes Region Ethics and Eligibility (E&E) Committee. If the sanction is appealed, the sanction will be held in abeyance until the Ethics and Eligibility hearing unless the complaint is of a criminal nature. If the complaint is of a criminal nature the sanction will begin immediately.

Within seven business days of receiving the appeal, the Ethics and Eligibility Committee shall schedule a hearing.

Any decision by the Ethics and Eligibility Committee is binding; the sanctioned member may contact the Region Commissioner, again in writing, within seven (7) business days and request a full Board of Directors hearing. Such a hearing, if scheduled will determine if the member was given adequate due process and if the decision was made with fundamental fairness.

Within fourteen business days the full Board of Directors may schedule a hearing. The decision of the Great Lakes Region Board of Directors will be final.

## **Great Lakes Region Most Asked Questions**

**Q:** Is there a deadline for player registration?

**A:** No, an individual may register at any time via the online registration system called “Webpoint.” The club director or team representative may add a player to his or her program at any time prior to playing in a sanctioned event. An individual may not compete unless he or she is assigned to a current team roster.

**Q:** What are the business hours for the Region?

**A:** Please understand that the GLR Region Offices are run out of the staff’s homes. Be considerate about the time of day that you call. No calls before 9:00AM or after 5:00 PM should be made. The offices are closed on all holidays.

**Q:** Can a player transfer from one team to another after having participated in a USAV sanctioned event?

**A:** According to USAV rules, NO. However, the Great Lakes Region allows for a transfer under an extenuating circumstance, and documentation must accompany the transfer request. If the transfer is granted, the player is not allowed to compete in Region Championships, USAV Qualifying Tournaments or at USAV Nationals.

For adults there is an exception; please refer to the Adult Rule of Two policy.

**Q:** Will all teams be accepted into Adult Regionals?

**A:** No, teams are not guaranteed a slot. Teams will be selected according to a point system. Points are accumulated for tournaments entered, finish in pool play, final standings, as well as “playing up” in tournaments. If we have more teams interested in playing than we have slots available, the teams with the fewest points will be dropped. Angelo Iasillo is the tournament director responsible for this championship. Please send him all entries. If mailed federal Express, UPS or Next Day Mail, please waive the required signature. We will not go to the post office to pick up entries.

**Q:** Where can I get updated information on tournaments and teams?

**A:** Go to the Region Web Site [www.greatlakesvolleyball.org](http://www.greatlakesvolleyball.org)