Rules and Regulations of the
North American Gay Volleyball Association

Amended May 2019

SECTION I: GENERAL RULES

1.01 - Championships Season

The Championships season shall be commence at 12:01 am on the day after the final day of the previous season's Championships and shall end at midnight on the last day of the current season's Championships. (5/2004)

1.02 - Requirements to Join

A. For a Team or League to be accepted as a Full Voting Member in the Association, annual dues in the amount as determined during the previous Annual Meeting must be paid before a competition which has been designated as a NAGVA-sanctioned event. Teams that fail to register on-line and provide proper documentation prior to the start of the NAGVA-sanctioned event must register on-site and pay $10.00 US more than the on-line rate. The Team must have actually competed in that tournament or in another designated NAGVA Sanctioned Tournament during the current Championship's Season (end of previous Championships to start of current season's Championships) to validate the Full Voting Member Team's right to vote. Leagues need to maintain current individual records and NAGVA registrations on all league participants, coaches, and officials to validate the Full Voting Member League's right to vote.

B. Any player participating in a NAGVA-sanctioned Event must abide by the NAGVA Code of Conduct (6/2006).

C. A person must be at least 18 years old to be a NAGVA member. (5/2017)

NAGVA Code of Conduct

Sportsmanship

I will practice good sportsmanship.

I will act in ways that bring respect to me, my coaches, my team and NAGVA.

I will not use bad language.

I will not swear or insult other persons.

I will not fight with other athletes, coaches, volunteers or staff.

Training and Competition

I will learn and follow the rules of my sport.

I will always try my best during training, pool play and competitions.

I will not "hold back" in preliminary competition just to get into an easier finals competition division.

Responsibility for My Actions

I will not make inappropriate or unwanted physical, verbal or sexual advances on others.

I will not smoke in non-smoking areas.

I will not use illegal drugs at NAGVA sanctioned events.

I will obey all laws and NAGVA governing rules for my sport.

I understand that if I do not obey this Code of Conduct, I will be subject to a range of consequences by the local tournament committee or director and/or the NAGVA board up to and including not being allowed to participate. (6/2006).

1.03 - Playing at Skill Level

While participating in any Association-sanctioned tournament, players may compete with any duly-registered Member Team, with respect to the player's skill level(s).

1.04 - U.S. Regions of NAGVA (see appendix A)

The Vice President of Tournaments shall have the authority to periodically modify both the number and geographic makeup of regions to balance the workload of Regional Commissioners who are required to attend all of the tournaments in their region. At the end of each season, the Vice President of Tournaments shall submit a listing of which tournament cities are in which regions for inclusion in the NAGVA Men's Rules & Regulations.

Operational Note (added June 2011): Regional Commissioners are not required to attend ALL tournaments in their region. This change complies with current procedures.

1.05 - Team Name Changes

If a Full Voting Team changes its name after playing in its first tournament of a season, the Team must re-register as a new Team with the Registrar, paying the required annual Full Voting Team dues.

1.06 - Annual Registration Fee

Each individual player, coach, or official participating in a NAGVA-sanctioned qualifying tournament must pay an annual registration fee as determined during the previous Annual Meeting, due for (at) the first competition of the player's respective fee, for purpose of general liability insurance coverage and administrative, operational, and organizational costs. Players that fail to register on-line and provide proper documentation prior to the start of the NAGVA-sanctioned event must register on-site and pay $10.00 US more than the on-line rate.

SECTION II: ELIGIBILITY DEFINITIONS

2.01 - Appeal of Player Rating

Player ratings may be appealed. Members who disagree with the outcome or process known to them for determining his/her rating assignment may appeal the decision by writing to the Director of Eligibility. The appeal will be processed following the steps outlined in Bylaw 8.02 (complaint filing procedures.). The request should document reasons the player feels the rating was completed improperly or should otherwise be invalidated. The determination (response) of a rating appeal is final and not eligible for appeal to the General Membership. (Amended 5/2012)

2.02 - Non-Rated Players

Teams that bring players that don't have NAGVA ratings to NAGVA Sanctioned Tournaments should be aware that those players will be rated during pool play and that the new rating will be considered effective for placing the team in the appropriate division for elimination play in the tournament according to rule 2.04 (see rule 2.03).

2.03 - Effective Date of New Player Ratings and Player Re-ratings

A. Initial ratings of new players are effective immediately. This player may be re-rated at any time.

B. If a player has received a valid re-evaluation, and that player's rating remains at his/her current level, his/her rating is effective at the conclusion of the tournament

(including Championships). This player may not be rated down for a six month period from the date of re-evaluation but may be rated up at any time. (Amended 5/2013)

C. If a player has been re-rated, and that player is rated up to a higher level, his/her new rating is effective 35days from the conclusion of the tournament, except for Championships, at which his/her new rating is effective at the conclusion of Championships. This player may not be rated down for a six-month period from the date of re-evaluation but may be rated up at any time. (Amended 5/2013)

D. If a player has been re-rated, and that player is rated down to a lower level, his/her new rating is effective immediately at the conclusion of the tournament. This player may not be rated down for a six-month period from the date of re-evaluation but may be rated up at any time. (Amended 6/2013).

2.04 - Player Ratings

A. Guidelines for Rating Individual Players

The purpose of player ratings is to place individuals with similar abilities in the same division and promote fair competition and enhance player safety. Guidelines for rating individual players are found in the NAGVA Skills Assessment.

1. The NAGVA Skills Assessment is a set of 24 skills based questions that are part of the NAGVA Rules & Regulations (as part of the Appendix), and treated as one entity. Any edits, alterations or content changes to the 24 skills questions must be reviewed and voted on in using the process for amending the Rules and Regulations and voted on by the membership at the Annual Meeting.

2. The Skills Assessment will determine the player's NAGVA letter rating. A member's skills assessment result will be recorded for each question. The highest two skills will be determine a member's rating. In the event the highest two skills do not match, the lower of the two will be the final rating. A member's skills assessment will be available for review by any member.

B. Initial Player Ratings

1. Upon registering for the first time with NAGVA, the team representative will indicate what he/she believes to be a player's rating. This rating will be the provisional rating. All provisional ratings will be verified by NAGVA officials using the above guide lines and observing play. Once a player is rated by NAGVA officials, this player will then have an initial rating. Once a new player is given his/her rating by NAGVA officials, this player will have an initial rating. NAGVA officials may modify the initial rating based on observed play. At the conclusion of the tournament, the player will have a final, established rating. This new player may be re-rated at any time. (Amended 6/2011)

2. Additional conditions and requirements shall apply to non-rated or provisional players being used as a Libero or a defensive specialist substitute. The team rep/captain must comply with one of the requirements with regard to such players:

a. The team rep/Captain can designate the player as a back-row only player, for the entire tournament (by notifying the RC in advance). That player will not be allowed to play front row during pool play or elimination play, except for in the event of injury or removal of a teammate. The initial rating assigned for defensive specialists will be coded –br and liberos will be coded -L [ex. "BB-br", A-L]. Such ratings shall be treated the same as provisional ratings; thus, any future tournament the player attends and in which the player plays a different position, the player must comply with Rules 2.03 (1) and 2.04 (A).

b. The team rep/Captain can use the player in question as a front row specialist (i.e. hitting and blocking) during pool play so that he is eligible to do so during elimination play. In order to play full rotation both days, the player must be observed demonstrating both skill sets. To satisfy this requirement, the player must play front row during one game of one match during pool play. The team rep/Captain shall provide advanced notice to the Regional Commissioner as to which game of which match this shall take place

so that it is observed and recorded. Teams found in violation of these provisions shall be asked to immediately comply or face removal from the tournament.

C. Ratings for Championships

1. At Championships, if a player has been re-rated, and that player's rating remains at his/her current level, his/her rating is effective at the conclusion of Championships. This player may be re-rated at any time.

2. At Championships, if player has been re-rated, and that player is rated up to a higher level, his/her new rating is effective at the conclusion of Championships. This player may not be re-rated down for a six month period from the date this player was most recently re-rated.

3. At Championships, if a player has been re-rated, and that player is rated down to a lower level, his/her new rating is effective at the conclusion of Championships. This player may be re-rated at any time. (6/2006).

D. Basis for Ratings and Re-ratings

Ratings and re-ratings are based on skill level. A player may request a Medical Re-rate based upon substantiated evidence of an injury or medical condition. If the Medical Re-rate is granted the player will be treated as an initial rating under subsection A above. In their request for Medical Re-rate, players must also ensure that their request complies with the NAGVA Code of Conduct under section 1.02 D. (amended 5/2009 and 5/2013)

E. Medical Re-Rate treated as Initial Rating

If a player has been granted a Medical Re-Rate, the re-rate will be treated as an initial rating under subsection A above. (6/2011)

F. Requests for Re-Evaluation During a Tournament (not an appeal)

Members may request to be re-evaluated during a tournament provided they are eligible for re-rate as defined in Rule 2.03 B. Request forms submitted to the Regional Commissioner must indicate if submitted on a player's own behalf or at the request of another player (name of requestor if required). While it is the goal to

observe all players for whom requests are received, Re-rate requests are completed as time and personnel permit. Amended 5/2012

G. Members with a break in participation of at least 3 consecutive years are eligible to return to play as a non-rated player. The request must be submitted in writing to the Director of Eligibility, following the appeal process defined in Rule 2.01 Upon verification that no participation occurred over the prior 3 years, the rating change is approved and effective immediately. Participation is defined as and verified by record of the member's signature on an official team roster/waiver for a sanctioned tournament. Last Rated Date is not a valid time point for verifying a period of inactivity.

2.05 - Rules Governing Team Roster Composition

A. Team Roster Restrictions

Teams registered to compete in any division offered by a tournament may only include players whose rating is the same or lower than that division, or those not yet rated (NR). Exceptions as defined below are allowed for teams competing in Modified or Masters Divisions. (Amended 5/2013)

2.06 - Divisions used for Organizing Competition

A. Standard Divisions

Tournaments directors will organize competition by selecting which divisions will be allowed to register. Standard divisions are named for each of the letter ratings used in the current player rating system (ex. B, BB, A, AA).

B. Modified Divisions

Tournaments may offer a Modified A Division in addition to or in place of any division noted above. The allowable modifications are:

1. **Modified A1 Division**, which allows (1) AA rated player on a Modified A1 team. The remaining players on the roster can be of any rating lower than AA.

2. **Modified A3 Division**, which allows up to (3) AA rated players on a Modified A3 team. The remaining players on the roster can be of any rating lower than AA.

C. Open Format (Standard B, BB + Open for A, AA)

Tournaments using this format follow the team composition rules for B and BB, but offer a flexible option for teams with higher level players called the Open division. Teams may compete in the "Open" Division without team composition restrictions with respect to player ratings. Pools for the Open Division are assigned in a way that equitably distributes teams with highest number of AA players among the pools.

The split into the "AA Open" and "A Open" division playoff brackets will be done based on a pre-determined format (a stated number of teams in each given a total number participating), published and communicated to the captains, on or before the start date of competition. The guidelines for splitting the teams and determining seeds are determined using both team composition (player ratings) and pool play results in the following method:

1. Teams with 3 or more AA players will be automatically grouped into the Open AA division playoff bracket and seeded based on Pool Play results using the method provided in Rule 3.02 G. Additional teams, based on results are added from Open Division pools up to the stated number for this bracket.
2. Teams with fewer than 3 AA players, will be seeded into either the "AA Open" playoff bracket or the "A Open" Playoff bracket, based on Pool Play results and in a way that results in the stated number of teams in each bracket.

3. If all teams who enter the Open Division have 3 or more AA players, the host organization can choose to seed all teams into the AA Open bracket, or they can choose to run separate "AA Open" Gold and "AA Open" Silver brackets, provided that there are enough teams to split the divisions after Pool Play and still be in compliance with the minimum 3 team division requirement.

   Additional Information: Examples of predetermined formats

   "Open AA/A" division is comprised of 18 teams. 10 teams will be seeded into the AA Open playoff bracket, and 8 teams will be seeded into the A Open Playoff bracket. Teams with more than 3 AA players automatically seed in Open AA, the remaining spots in Open AA are filled based on results without respect to individual ratings. The remaining 8 teams are grouped in Open A bracket."

   "Open AA/A is comprised of 8 Teams, with option to keep as one division given all teams meeting the 3 AA player threshold." (Amended 5/2012)

D. Masters Divisions

Tournaments may offer age-restricted competition within a Masters Division format. The division may be included among any of those noted in 2.05 B 1 and 2, or exclusively within an all-Masters Tournament format.

1. The minimum age for players on teams entered in Masters Divisions shall be 35 years old, as of the date competition begins.

2. As with the Standard Divisions above, Masters Divisions can be modified to encourage greater participation. Tournaments may offer:

a. Masters Modified BB Division which allows for no more than three (3) A rated players on a BB team. (amended 2009)

b. Masters Modified B, which allows for (1) BB rated player on a B team. (amended 5/2007, 5/2013)

2.06 Championships Eligibility

A. Player Eligibility

To be eligible to compete in the Men's Championships, each individual player in the Men's Divisions must meet the following requirements:

1. The player must have played in a NAGVA-sanctioned tournament during the current or previous season to be eligible to play in Championships (Rule 1.01). (Amended 6/2009)

2. The player must not have any outstanding financial or other sanctions unless accepted by the Championships Committee.

B. Team Previous Tournament Play

To be eligible to compete in the Men's Championships, each Full Voting Team in the Men's Divisions must have competed in at least one (1) NAGVA-sanctioned event during the current Championship Season (and must have four players who have played under that team name in the current NAGVA season as per Rule 1.01) and paid all annual fees and dues and have all players on the roster individually rated for playing ability and skill level.

SECTION III: ADMINISTRATION OF NAGVA-SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

3.01 - Requirements for NAGVA-sanctioned tournaments

A. Applicant Qualifications and Pre-requisite Conditions

1. Members in good-standing

Applicants seeking sanctioning for their tournament must be NAGVA Members in good-standing (free of all restrictions and suspensions) at the time of submitting the application.

2. Prior History

Before applying to host additional tournaments, applicants with prior history as a Tournament Director of a NAGVA-Sanctioned Tournament must resolve all outstanding issues from prior tournaments (regardless of host city in which he/she served as Director). These issues may include but are not limited to the following:

a. Sanctioning fees from prior season(s)

b. Preliminary Budget (worksheet)

c. Financial Report (worksheet)

d. Evaluation of RC (form)

e. Results of Competition

f. Results of Certification Exams

g. Practical Observation Forms of Candidates for Certified Officials and/or Certified Scorekeepers. (Amended 6/2007)

B. Submission for Approval

1. NAGVA Sanctioning Form

Tournament organizers must complete and return a NAGVA sanctioning form no more than 8 months and at least 2 months prior to the date of the event to the Vice President of Tournaments for approval.

2. Required Financial Reports

The Vice President of Tournaments shall manage the content and format of a budget form and financial report form, used for reporting pre and post tournament financial details. At a minimum, the budget and financial report must include information such as expenses, revenue, fund-raising goals and sponsorship levels, and anticipated donations (if applicable). The reports should also include description of the tournament's banking /accounting system. These reports will be made available by the Vice President of Tournaments for review by both potential and participating teams. This information may also be used as the basis for persons with concerns to file grievances or recommendations for denying future sanctioning requests.

a. Preliminary Budget:

All applicants are required to submit a preliminary budget at the time of or within one week after submitting the application for

sanctioning. This budget shall be considered part of the sanctioning application; sanctioning requests submitted without the budget are considered incomplete and will not be reviewed until received.

b. Financial Report:

All directors of Sanctioned Tournaments are required to submit the Financial Report within 30 days following the tournament's close. Any line items still outstanding at that time should be noted. Changes made to any line items after submittal must be reported, and an amended report filed.

3. Banking Guidelines

a. Tournament Revenue in Excess of Expenses

Profits from a tournament may not go to an individual or group of individuals for personal gain. Additionally, Tournament-generated funds in excess of $250 require itemized report of intended use.

b. Acceptable Forms of Payment

Acceptable forms of payment for transactions between NAGVA and the tournament host include cashier's check, money order, checks drawn from accounts registered to the host organization or league, or credit card. Payment by credit card requires additional steps and early notification of your intention to do so. If the card is registered to an individual, documentation showing reimbursement to the individual from the host organization must be submitted to the Vice President of Tournaments within 30 days of the credit card transaction. (Amended 6/2007)

C. Sanctioning Fees

1. Team Fees

A NAGVA sanctioning fee ($15.00 US per Team) will be assessed for each tournament. Tournament organizers will remit the sanctioning fee, along with the NAGVA authorization request form, to the Vice President of Tournaments, prior to the event. The sanctioning fee entitles the tournament organizers to the following:

- Current NAGVA Team Representative email contact information.
- Seeding and playoff brackets.
- General administrative assistance.
- General liability insurance coverage.
- Specific court scheduling assistance.

- On Line Registration
- Tournament specific page on NAGVA website with details for tournament

2. Facility Fees

In addition, tournaments using more than one facility must pay an additional $350 per facility fee. An additional facility is one defined as where play is occurring on courts during pool play or tournament play in which those courts are not under the same roof or within 300 yards of the main facility, which requires additional work and representatives/appointments to cover NAGVA administration at that tournament.

a. If a tournament indicates use of an additional facility during the sanctioning process, but cancels the use of an additional facility before the tournament is held, the tournament will be subject to a penalty up to the full additional fee if cancellation is done within 5 weeks of the tournament date.

D. Minimum of 3 Teams per Division

Tournaments sanctioned as qualifying tournaments must have at least three teams in a tournament division. Team captains in a three-team division must be notified beforehand and must agree to play as such. This is for tournament play only, as pool play allows for cross pooling of divisions if necessary.

E. Paid Referees

Paid referees as identified in NAGVA competition standards must be approved and duly registered as individual participants by NAGVA's Technical and Official's Development Division, or if unable to make a determination, approved by the Vice President of Tournaments prior to the event.

F. Tournament Success Rate

NAGVA will sanction all tournaments that meet the already established criteria and do not conflict with any NAGVA tournaments that currently exist within a city or region.

G. NAGVA Standard Reporting

Tournament organizers shall use Association-authorized Sign-in Rosters, Standard NAGVA Tournament Entry Waiver, Elimination Brackets (which demonstrate the best/worst brackets) and Tournament Results reports and forms. The roster forms and Results reports must be submitted to the Registrar within seven (7) days after the completion of the event.

H. Officiating Information

Officiating information packets must be included in every captain's packet to insure consistency in officiating and scoring. Any questions should be reviewed/confirmed with the Director of Technical Development.

I. Tournament Entry Fee

All teams, in all divisions, of a NAGVA-sanctioned tournament will be charged an equitable entry fee. Where currency differences may come into play, entry fee equitability will be based upon the exchange rate as it exists on the date of publication of said tournament's materials. No OTHER special treatment can be given to any teams based upon their division, currency or city/country of origin. Any special incentives/prizes must be accessible to every potential entrant.

J. Officiating Clinics

All NAGVA-sanctioned tournaments may conduct officiating and score keeping clinics (Amended 2009). If a tournament wished to hold an officiating clinic, they must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Roles & Responsibilities

a. Tournament Directors:

i. Shall be responsible for obtaining and confirming clinic facilitator(s), securing an appropriate presentation style venue, scoring the written section of exams communicating results to the candidates for certification, and sending materials to be recorded as per direction of Director of Officials.

ii. Shall have ultimately responsibility for ensuring that those who attend the clinic(s) and wish to complete the practical (observed) component of the exam are, in fact, observed by assigning to clinic facilitator or another designated individual.

b. The Clinic Facilitator(s):

i. Shall be appointed by the Tournament Director in the Application to Host a Sanctioned Tournament

ii. Shall be responsible for recording and reporting attendance, photocopying and assembling certification examination packages, delivering the content of the clinic(s) concisely and with professionalism, proctoring during the written section, facilitating discussion of and explaining key concepts of the rules of volleyball exhibited within the test questions.

iii. Shall, if assigned, be responsible for organizing a practical observation team to complete duties (collecting and submitting completed rating forms for all certified official candidates, etc.)

2. Related Costs

a. Tournament organizers may charge a fee for costs associated with providing required clinics (officiating, scorekeeping, etc.) and completing required tasks (grading candidate exams, observing officiating candidates, completing ratings forms, etc) budget forms, fees for Head Official, etc.) required to be a sanctioned tournament must be incorporated and included in the team fee assessed regardless of their need/no need to participate. (Amended 2009)

b. Whenever possible and available, Tournament Directors are encouraged to use a local clinic facilitator willing to volunteer his/her time. (Amended 6/2007)

3.02 - Tournament Procedures

Tournaments sanctioned as qualifying tournaments for the Championships shall follow these procedures for consistent administration and play for each member Team participating in the competitions.

A. Regional Commissioner Responsibilities

The Regional Commissioner shall be responsible for ensuring that all teams and players in a NAGVA Sanctioned Tournament are NAGVA registered and rated. The Regional Commissioner is also responsible for assisting the tournament organizers in any decisions regarding any last-minute or emergency rulings on eligibility. Each Regional Commissioner shall submit a report to the Vice President of Tournaments and Director of Eligibility on any problems, eligibility questions, and any on-the-spot rulings that had to be made at that specific tournament.

B. Mailing and Emailing Information Provided to Qualified Tournaments

Tournament organizers shall specify which playing Divisions are to compete in the tournament. The Registrar will provide all tournaments approved as NAGVA sanctioned by the Vice President of Tournaments mailing and emailing information

including all member Teams eligible to compete in the Divisions of the tournament at least 120 days before the scheduled event. The mailing and emailing information is to be used to distribute tournament information and entry applications.

C. Advertised Deadline Dates & Penalties

Entry applications for tournaments must clearly indicate a cut-off date to end entries on tournament announcement materials. Tournament organizers may charge reasonable penalties for post-deadline entries, but must give such notice in the tournament announcement materials.

D. Required Payment for Teams to be registered

A Team is not considered to be entered and accepted into any qualifying tournament until it has paid the tournament entry fees in full. Payment of tournament fees should be made by certified check, a cashier's check or money order to the order of the host organization.

E. Refunds to Teams

Tournament organizers shall return entry fees in the event a member Team withdraws or cancels at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the event; unless a "no refund" policy was clearly stated in the tournament announcement materials. (Amended 5/2012)

F. Acceptance of Teams

Tournament organizers shall accept entries by the order of either the postmarks on envelopes or the transaction dates of an online payment containing the Team applications, and shall not restrict the number of Full Voting Member Teams accepted per city.

G. Determining Seeds for Elimination Play

1. After Pool Play results are final, Tournament organizers shall assign each team in a division a numerical seed for placement in approved NAGVA Elimination Brackets using the method below:

> Pool play win/loss record; (e.g. 8-0 down through 0-8)in the event of a tie,
>
> Points Earned (PE) divided by (Points Earned + Points Earned by Opponent) = Standings Percentage example:
>
> PE=100, PEO=75, 100/(100+75) =57%) The higher the percentage, the higher the ranking; if a tie still exists, flip a coin.

2. If divisions were combined in pool play due to only having the minimum 3 teams in one or both, they are separated and seeded accordingly using the method above. Divisions may not be combined for elimination/bracket play.

H. Placement of Teams in Proper Division

Tournament organizers shall place teams in the proper division for elimination play, based on NAGVA player ratings. Tournament Directors may make exceptions in cases where there are not three (3) teams to make up each division, and two or

more divisions need to be combined. Any team placed in another division after pool play may be placed as high as the middle of the new division to be utilized and assigned a .500 standings percentage, or in the Tournament Director's, in consultation with the NAGVA Representative, discretion may be placed as low as the last seed, especially when the situation involves a disregard of NAGVA's Rules and Regulations.

I. Adherence to Rules of Competition

Tournament organizers shall follow the playing rules set forth in the Competition Section of these Rules & Regulations. Any deviations from these Competition requirements must be stated in the tournament announcement materials and be approved, in advance, by the Vice President of Tournaments. Failure to do so may result in the tournament being "disqualified" and not counting as a qualifying event for the Championships.

J. Minimum Number of Teams per Division

Tournaments sanctioned as qualifying tournaments must have at least three (3) member Full Voting Member Teams competing in each Division. The playing format will be recommended by the Vice President of Tournaments.

K. Use of Player-Referees

NAGVA certified player-referees should be used to officiate all pool play matches. Effective as of the 2010-2011 season, all tournaments are required to use USAV, Volleyball Canada, or PAVO certified officials during elimination rounds of play. (amended 2010)

L. Interdiction of Sanctioning

Tournaments which do not comply with the above-stated procedures will not be NAGVA sanctioned and all liability insurance coverage will be voided. NAGVA Player-Referees should be used to officiate all matches. The exception may be only when FIVB International Arbiter or USAV (USA Volleyball) National officials are available, and stated on the tournament application information.

M. Changing Division Format After Sanctioning

Tournaments may change the format of a division after a tournament has been sanctioned given the following:

1. Possible format changes are limited to:

    a. A or mod A1 formats changing to mod A1 or A formats.

    b. Open A/AA format changing to mod A3 format.

2. Before the request to change the division format is made to NAGVA, team representatives of all the teams currently registered for the division being altered must demonstrate, in writing, that the change in format is approved.

3. The request for the division format change must be made to NAGVA VP of Tournaments more than 30 days prior to the tournament start date.

4. Request to change the division format is made to the VP of Tournaments and will include copies of the approvals from all team representatives.

3.03 - Required Equipment and Personnel for Qualified Tournaments

Tournaments sanctioned as qualifying tournaments for the Championships shall have the equipment and personnel (outlined for minimum requirements) to ensure the consistent safety and communication of timely information to member Full Voting Teams and individuals participating in the tournament.

A. Site Director

The hosting group is required to have a non-playing Site Director, who is available during play to handle general management of the activities and information requests, preferably at each playing facility.

B. Court Manager

It is strongly recommended to have a non-playing Court Manager for each court, who is charged with keeping the games moving on a timely basis, providing adequate line-up and scoring sheets, and being available to communicate any needs or medical attention for that court.

C. Medical Personnel

Trained emergency medical personnel shall be available during the play at each gym facility (if they are further than 100 yards apart). Such personnel shall hold some certification or licensure as a Medical Doctor, EMT, Sports Trainer, or any equivalent determined to be satisfactory by the VP of Tournaments.

D. Net Specifications

Nets must be of proper height and equipped with antennae.

E. Court Documents

Score sheets and line-up cards approved by the Association are to be used. Approved documents are score sheets approved by FIVB, USAV (USA Volleyball) and NAGWS.

F. Score Keeping Devices

A score keeping device must be available and visible to players on each court.

G. On Site Availability of Food/Beverages

Food, beverages, or refreshments should be available on site, or if this is not possible, maps detailing locations, distances, and walking times of off-site fast food

stores and restaurants should be posted near the Tournament Desk message board.

3.04 - Comparison of Rosters for Ratings

Tournament organizers shall compare Team rosters entered for the event and must immediately notify the Director of Eligibility and Regional Commissioner by telephone of any player rating discrepancies. The Director of Eligibility will determine jurisdiction and notify the member Team, Regional Commissioner, and tournament organizers of that decision. The Director of Eligibility may refer the issue to the Vice President of Tournaments or the Board of Directors.

3.05 - Teams Writing Bad Checks

If a team writes a dishonored check to a tournament, the tournament organizers may petition the Vice President for sanctioning. In order to petition, the tournament must provide sufficient documentation that attempts were made to collect from that team. The NAGVA Executive Vice President shall have the authority to ban the team and the individual who wrote the dishonored check from further NAGVA play until which time the debts are collected.

3.06 - Tournament Date Changes

Tournament organizers of tournaments falling on major holidays shall have the option to extend tournament play into an extra ½ or full day. Tournaments changing to an extended time from their historic norm can do so only provided ample pre-notification. Notice of such extended dates must be clearly indicated on all tournament announcement materials. Ample notification is defined as 4 months.

SECTION IV: RULES OF COMPETITION

4.01 - Precedence of These Rules

These "Rules of Competition" shall supersede any and all rules of the Federation Internationale de Volleyball, the Canadian Volleyball Association, the United States Volleyball Association (USAV), or any other sports federation that may or may not certify referees or sanction volleyball competitions. The Referees will be instructed before competition begins that this Association follows the FIVB lead in establishing playing rules and guidelines, but, that these competitions have been modified according to the wishes and desires of the General Membership.

4.02 - Rules Governing Play

The most current USAV Domestic Competition Rules (DCR) will be used to govern the rules of play.

A. New rules released by USAV must be approved for implementation by the membership at the Annual Meeting will take effect in the following season of play.
B. Playing rules must be stated in the tournament announcement materials.
C. FIVB/CVA rules and guidelines may be used in tournaments outside the United States
D. The Association observes the following alterations to the USAV DCR:
    1. Players' jerseys must be marked with numbers not less the four (4) inches in height on the front and eight (8) inches in height on the back. Numbers shall be located in such a position that they are clearly visible and shall be a color contrasting to that of the jersey. Liberos shall also wear a clearly contrasting color to that of the color of their teammates that makes them easily distinguishable from the rest of their team.
    2. Pursuit is not permitted. Any ball that crosses the plane of the net outside the antenna shall be a side-out.
    3. If the playing surface at a facility utilizes distinct colors to differentiate the (in) playing court and the (out) free space, an edge line around the perimeter of the court is not necessary. (An attack line and a center line shall always be required.)
    4. Teams must have six (6) players on the court in order to compete. If a Team becomes incomplete through disqualification or expulsion of a player the Team loses that game by default, keeping the points earned. If a Team becomes incomplete due to injury or illness that team may acquire a replacement player (who has met NAGVA eligibility requirements) at, or below the division in which the team is playing in. The replacement player shall be taken from an available player from the host city with the approval of the host city's tournament director or, if none available, from a team that has already been eliminated from the tournament.
    5. The Regional Commissioner and the Tournament Director will decide the playing rules regarding the height of the ceiling and any overhanging objects, if there are any questions as to the ground rules prior to the start of competition. The Referees will then be instructed on what playing rules to call when the ball touches the ceiling or any overhanging object.
    6. Captains must sign the scoresheet at the conclusion of the match.

4.03 - Minimum Competition Standards

Tournament organizers shall run a double-elimination tournament.

Double-elimination tournament:

1. Preliminary pool play shall consist of at least eight (8) 21 or 25-point games in four matches or nine (9) 21 or 25-point games in three matches per Team and at least three (3) second-round games.
2. Play-off brackets, especially double elimination brackets, will be set accordingly where the Team with the best record plays the Team with the last-placed record, and second best versus second-to-last, and so forth. Where appropriate, the Teams with better records will be given “byes” in the first round(s) of play-offs.
3. The double-elimination matches in the Losers’ Bracket may be one (1) 25-point game, with "win by two points" and no time limit, OR may be a 2 out of 3 match with 15, 21, or 25-point games, win by 2 points, and no time limit (no cap in the deciding game).

4.04 - Tournament Play Eligibility

Players must have played at least one (1) point during pool play rounds in order to be eligible for bracket play.

SECTION V: ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

5.01 - Maintaining a Good Reputation for NAGVA

All Association Championships shall be planned, promoted and conducted in a manner that is a credit to the Association and a tribute to the sport of volleyball. Full opportunity should be taken in using the tournament for educating and motivating groups and individuals in the values and full possibilities of the game.

5.02 - Precedence of Rules of Competition

All "Rules of Competition" in Section 5 will be followed for the North American Gay Championships, unless superseded in this section. A. Full Voting Member Teams competing at Men’s Championships shall compete in a MINIMUM of fourteen (14) games during the activities, with the format determined by the Championships Committee.

5.03 - Team Eligibility

In order to be eligible to play in the Championships, a Full Voting Member Team must have participated in at least one (1) Association-sanctioned qualifying tournament during the

current NAGVA season and each individual player must have participated in at least one (1) Association sanctioned qualifying tournament (to be skill-rated) during the past two (2) NAGVA seasons. A team must be comprised of a minimum of three (3) core members of cumulative year played rosters.

5.04 - Pool Play Assignments

Pool-play assignments will be made by the Championship Committee. This should be completed at least ten (10) days prior to the start of play.

5.05 - Seeding for Pool Play

Seeding for the pool play in the Championships will be based on the current year's tournament results and the previous year's Championships standings.

5.06 - Division Placement of Teams

Each member Full Voting Member Team will be entered in the playing Division merited by the makeup of the individual player ratings as laid out in Rule 2.04.

5.07 - Championship Committee Responsibilities

The Championship Committee is responsible for the match scheduling, assigning of playing facilities, and general records keeping of the tournament.

5.08 - Bidding for Championships

The location and hosting organization of the Championships shall be determined by the Board of Directors on the basis of bids received. The championship Committee will present its recommendations from site inspections, interviews with hosting organizers, and logistics evaluations.

A. Each Championship should be bid for and awarded no earlier than forty-eight (48) months in advance of the Championships' tournament date.

B. Local committees shall be formed and instructed as to responsibilities. The Championship Committee will assist the hosting organization by circulating entry applications, instructions, and tournament announcement materials.

C. Player and spectator information shall be provided in the program and by means of a public address system.

D. The housing and entertainment of visiting players and spectators shall be arranged.

E. Facilities and arrangements for any meetings of the Officers, the Board of Directors, and General Membership work groups shall be provided by the hosting

organization.

5.09 - Consideration of Host City

In making the selection of the location of the Championships, the following factors shall be considered:

A. The general policy of holding the Championships in cities, provinces, and states that have gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender rights ordinances in effect.

B. The experience and ability of the prospective host to organize, promote and administer such an event.

C. The physical facilities and sites to be used for competition must meet the minimum standards outlined by the Championships Committee.

D. The geographical location with respect to travel of the Full Voting Member Teams with the general plan to move the Championships around the continent, such as West Coast, East Coast, Central, South, but not limited to this sequence.

5.10 - Trophies and Awards

Trophies and awards for the Championships will be awarded by the hosting group. The Team and individual awards should be simple, dignified, and a special symbol of the hosting locale or community. The awards shall be reviewed by the Championship Committee. Awards given shall be:

A. Team trophies for First Place, Second Place, Third Place, and Fourth Place Teams in each of the playing Divisions.

B. Individual awards for each bona fide player, coach, or manager listed on the final, submitted roster of the First, Second and Third Place Teams in each of the playing Divisions.

C. One "Most Valuable Player" award for each playing Division.

D. Six "All Tournament" Team awards for each playing Division.

E. The Association shall be responsible for the engraving and presentation of the "traveling trophies" in each playing Division.

5.11 - All-Star and MVP Awards

The Awards Committee will be responsible for the selection and recognition of the All-Tournament and "MVP" player awards.

A. The Committee will be appointed by the Championship Committee from persons knowledgeable in evaluating technical skills, persons knowledgeable in assessing both the individual player contribution to team play, and the overall attitude and conduct that emulates the goals and objectives of the Association.

B. The selection process will include balloting by Team Representatives in each respective playing Division and the Referees.

C. No person playing in a Division below his/her rating will be eligible for an All-Star or "MVP" award.

SECTION VI: NAGVA OFFICIATING

6.01 - Certified Officials

A. Only certified individuals will be permitted to perform the duties of first referee. All teams participating in any NAGVA-sanctioned event must have at least one team member (player, coach, non-playing referee, etc.) certified as an official. (amended 2010)

1. All first referees must also be certified scorekeepers during the entire period in which they are certified as a first referee. (amended 2010)

2. In tournaments in which there are paid referees, the refereeing team must provide a second referee that is a certified first referee. (amended 2010)

B. Any team not possessing a certified official shall pay the cost of a certified official (to be provided by the tournament) who shall act as the first referee during that team's turn at refereeing duties.

C. Certification from other approved volleyball organizations shall satisfy this requirement provided proof of said certification is provided to the NAGVA Vice President of Officials. The list of accepted organizations shall be approved and maintained by the Vice President of Officials.

D. Members who do not possess certification as a volleyball official from another approved certifying organization may be certified through the NAGVA Vice President of Officials' office. (5/2004)

E. NAGVA Certification shall be considered valid for a period of two years from the Championships end date for the season during which certification takes place, after which individuals must re-certify according to the provisions C and D above. (amended 2010)

6.02 - NAGVA Referee Certification Criteria

Candidates for NAGVA referee certification must fulfill the following provisions in order to become sanctioned as a NAGVA official:

A. Either (1) attendance at an officials' clinic whose content includes the duties of officials and the rules and regulations of volleyball or (2) review of the referee clinic material as provided by NAGVA. (amended 2010)

B. Passing score on a written rules examination whose content includes the duties of officials and the rules and regulations of volleyball.

C. Passing score from a trained evaluator who will observe and critique the candidate as he/she officiates in a match situation.

6.03 - NAGVA Certified Score Keepers

A. Beginning with the 2006-2007 NAGVA season, no uncertified individuals will be permitted to perform the duties of score keeper. All teams participating in any NAGVA-sanctioned event must have at least one team member (player, coach, non-playing referee, etc.) certified as a score keeper.

B. Any team not possessing a certified score keeper shall pay the cost of a certified score keeper (to be provided by the tournament) who shall act as the score keeper during that team's turn at refereeing duties.

C. Certification from other approved volleyball organizations shall satisfy this requirement provided proof of said certification is provided to the NAGVA Vice President of Officials. The list of accepted organizations shall be approved and maintained by the Vice President of Officials.

D. Members who do not possess certification as a volleyball official from another approved certifying organization may be certified through the NAGVA Vice President of Officials' office.

E. NAGVA Certification shall be considered valid for a period of two years from the Championships end date for the season during which certification takes place, after which individuals must re-certify according to the provisions C and D above. (amended 2010)

6.04 - NAGVA Score Keeper Certification Criteria

Candidates for NAGVA score keeper certification must request and perform an online certification test whose content includes the techniques and procedures of score keeping, as approved by the NAGVA Vice President of Officials. (6/2011)

Rules & Regulations Revision Dates

Original 1985 Rules and Regulations attested to by President Ted Weinkem, Vice President Jim Mckinzey, and Secretary Greg Smith.

Revised 1986 and attested to by President Wally Kunukau, Vice President Mark Hatten, and Secretary Akiyoshi Hamauchi.

Revised 1987 and attested to by President Al Castor, Vice President Mark Hatten, and Secretary Jim Brisboy.

Revised 1988 and attested to by President Dudley Culver, Vice President Mark Hatten, and Secretary Chris Ching.

Revised 1990 and attested to by President Chris Ching, Vice President Mark Hatten, and Secretary Aldon Griffis.

Revised 1991 and attested to by President Mark Hatten, Executive Vice President John Goodwin, and Secretary Wally Kunukau.

Revised 1992 and attested to by President Mark Hatten, Executive Vice President Dan Rotramel, and Treasurer Jeff Pintor.

Revised 1993 and attested to by President Mark Hatten, Executive Vice President Dan Rotramel, and Treasurer Jeff Pintor.

Revised 1994 and attested to by President Dan Rotramel, Executive Vice President Mike Anderson, and Treasurer Ted Bedwell.

Revised 1995 and attested to by President Dan Rotramel, Executive Vice President Mike Anderson, and Treasurer Ted Bedwell.

Revised 1996 and attested to by President Ted Bedwell, Executive Vice President Gary Carter, and Treasurer John Fernsler.

Revised 1997 and attested to by President Ted Bedwell, Executive Vice President Gary Carter, and Treasurer John Fernsler.

Revised 1998 and attested to by President John Pastrano, Executive Vice President Jeff Redfield, and Treasurer John Fernsler.

Revised 1999 and attested to by President John Pastrano, Executive Vice President Jeff Redfield, and Treasurer John Fernsler.

Revised 2000 and attested to by President John Pastrano, Executive Vice President Jeff Redfield, Treasurer John Fernsler and Secretary Bob Benson.

Revised 2001 and attested to by President John Pastrano, Executive Vice President Jeff Redfield, Treasurer John Fernsler and Secretary Bob Benson.

Revised 2002 and attested to by President Jeff Redfield, Executive Vice President Fred Balduini, Treasurer John Fernsler and Secretary Bob Benson.

Revised 2003 and attested to by President Jeff Redfield, Executive Vice President Fred Balduini, Treasurer John Fernsler and Secretary Ryan Brady.

Revised 2004 and attested to by President Jeff Redfield, Executive Vice President Ryan Brady, Treasurer John Fernsler and Secretary David Pope.

Revised 2005 and attested to by President Jeff Redfield, Executive Vice President Ryan Brady, Treasurer John Fernsler and Secretary David Pope.

Revised 2006 and attested to by President David Pope, Executive Vice President J. Robert Warren, Treasurer Rick Talley and Secretary Jeff Redfield.

Revised 2007 and attested to by President David Pope, Executive Vice President J. Robert Warren, Treasurer Rick Talley and Secretary Jeff Redfield.

Revised 2008 and attested to by President Rick Talley, Executive Vice President J. Robert Warren, Treasurer Jason Fallon and Secretary Ryan Brady.

Revised 2009 and attested to by President Rick Talley, Executive Vice President J. Robert Warren, Treasurer Jason Fallon and Secretary Ryan Brady.

Revised 2010 and attested to by President Rick Talley, Executive Vice President J. Robert Warren, Treasurer Jason Fallon and Secretary Ryan Brady.

Revised 2011 and attested to by President Rick Talley, Executive Vice President J. Robert Warren, Treasurer Jason Fallon and Secretary Ryan Brady.

Revised 2012 and attested to by President Rick Talley, Executive Vice President Randy Self, Treasurer Jason Fallon and Secretary Ryan Brady.

Revised 2013 and attested to by President Rick Talley, Executive Vice President Randy Self, Treasurer Jason Fallon and Secretary Ryan Brady.

Revised 2016 and attested to by President Jason Fallon, Executive Vice President Randy Self, Treasurer Lew Smith, Secretary Brian Crumby.

Revised 2017 and attested to by President Jason Fallon, Executive Vice President Brian Crumby, Treasurer Lew Smith, Secretary Mark Ebel.