

ARTICLE VII – SCHEDULING POOL PLAY

- A) Iowa Region tournaments are expected to follow the “Guidelines for Conducting Indoor Tournaments/Leagues” located in your current USA Volleyball Domestic Competition Regulations.
- B) **Tournament format.** While there are many tournament formats possible, the Iowa Region uses round robin play followed by a playoff bracket. This format guarantees teams will play a specific number of matches. Playoffs are required with this format; in the Iowa Region, tournaments usually take 4 out of 5 teams to playoffs. Tournaments may vary from this format (take fewer teams to playoffs, or not hold playoffs) in some circumstances, but must request a variance from the Iowa Region when sanctioning the tournament, and must inform all participants of the variance in advance. If dangerous weather or other unforeseen circumstances require a change in schedule on tournament day, the change may be made with agreement from all team representatives at the event.
- C) **Pool Play Procedures.**
- 1) Tournaments may accept a maximum of **5 teams per court.**
 - 2) Levels per court. One level of play per court, except with prior approval from the Iowa Region.
 - a) Adult tournaments: Tournaments may schedule combined divisions (ie: BB/B or AA/A). If there is more than one pool in a combined division, it is recommended that both championship and consolation playoffs are held. Tournaments not originally scheduled as combined divisions must receive permission from all entered teams before combining divisions.
 - b) Junior tournaments. These level combinations are allowed: 13/14 (7th grade/8th grade), 15/16 (9th grade/10th grade), 16/17 (10th grade/11th grade), or 17/18 (11th grade/12th grade)
 - c) Junior Tournament Divisions. Tournaments may be designated at three different levels:
 - (1) **Power:** Power tournaments are for Age teams only, and are intended for teams attempting to qualify for Nationals, or other teams that play at that caliber. Teams that play in Power tournaments will be given 10 extra points for each Power tournament, in addition to the regular points earned according to their tournament play. These points are used for ranking purposes.
 - (2) **Gold:** This is your typical level of tournament play in the Iowa Region. Age and grade teams may play, and it is intended for combining all levels of play.
 - (3) **Silver:** Silver tournaments are intended for beginning or developmental level teams. Age or grade teams.
- D) **Establishing Pools.**
- 1) **Seeding Pools.** When a tournament has more than one pool in an age group, the tournament director should seed the pools using team points posted on the Iowa Region website, or with the help of the Iowa Region. This will ensure, as much as possible, a fair and competitive level of play.
 - 2) **Host teams and local teams** should be scheduled to play or officiate the earliest matches. Teams that travel greater distances should be allowed the later starting times.
 - 3) In the event of a **last minute cancellation**, the tournament director can revise pool schedules. In the case of last minute schedule changes, however, teams are not expected to start or officiate their first match prior to the originally scheduled start time, unless they are already present.
- E) **Playing ahead of schedule.** Teams cannot be forced to start their first scheduled match early, unless they are present and willing to begin. After each team has played their first match of the day, all teams should be ready to play and officiate their following matches 10 or 6 minutes after the previous match has ended. Remind teams to check how far ahead their court is before leaving the building for lunch, etc.
- F) **Scoring System.** All sets use rally scoring (a point is scored on each rally). Non-deciding sets are won by the team that scores 21 or 25 points with a minimum two-point advantage (no scoring cap). If there is a deciding set, it is won by the team that scores 15 points with a minimum two-point advantage (no scoring cap). The Iowa Region recommends that 4-team pools play sets to 25, and 5-team pools play sets to 21. When using a 21-point set, teams should begin the set with a score of 4-4, and end at 25.
- G) **Scheduling Match Times.** The following time parameters are in the rule book. These time allowances provide for a six minute warm up before each match and three minutes between sets.
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| Two 25 point sets | 50 minutes |
| Two 21 point sets | 45 minutes |
| Best of 3, sets to 25 points (15 point 3rd set) | 1 hr 5 min. |
| Best of 3, sets to 21 points (15 point 3rd set) | 1 hour |
| One 15 point set | 20 minutes |
| One 25 point Set | 26 minutes |

Best of 5, sets to 25 points (15 point 5th Set)

1 hr 45 min.

- H) Pool Play Schedules.** The Iowa Region has created pool play schedules that are fair and accurate for various types of tournament play. All schedules can be found in Part III of the Tournament Manual. Most tournaments employ a round robin pool play format, followed by tournament playoffs. If you need a format that is not available in this tournament manual, you may contact the Iowa Region for assistance in creating one.
- I) Shorter Sunday Tournaments.** The Iowa Region will allow tournament directors to restrict Sunday tournaments to 4 teams per court, start at noon, and charge up to \$100 tournament entry fee.

ARTICLE VIII – PLAYOFF FORMATS & TIE BREAKERS

- A) Iowa Region tournaments generally take 4 teams from each pool to playoffs.** If you choose to take fewer teams, you must notify the Iowa Region when you apply for tournament sanction. This information must be given to team reps before the tournament, as it may affect their decisions in entering tournaments, as well as how they make their lineups.
- B) Finals should be schedule to start no later than 8:00 pm.**
- C) A Championship and Consolation bracket** may be used for playoffs; however, a consolation bracket is not required, depending on the number of teams participating in the tournament. Due to time constraints, **no more than 8 teams** should be in the Championship bracket.
- D) When teams are tied to determine either 1) one team advances to playoffs and the other goes home after pool play, OR 2) one team advances to the Championship bracket, and the other goes to the consolation bracket, further competition MUST take place** unless clearly stated in advance in the tournament regulations.
- E) Tiebreaking Procedures to determine playoff positions.** This is the method most often employed for determining tie breakers in the Iowa Region. Different variations for determining tie breakers can be found in the USAV Domestic Competition Regulations (rule book); if a tournament uses different criteria, it must be stated at the beginning of the event. Teams should NOT be eliminated from assignment to the Championship bracket by point differential or any other non-competitive system.
- 1) **Tied Teams both qualify for playoffs** (both qualify for Championship bracket or both qualify for Consolation bracket), **but are tied for position.** Teams tied for a position in the same bracket should not compete in a playoff set to determine position. Tie breaking criteria differs if you are using match play during pool play (win 2 out of 3) or simply playing 2 sets in pool play. Position assignment should be determined by:
 - a) **If playing 2 sets only during pool play:**
 - (1) Results of the match(es) between the tied teams, first on the won-lost record, and second on the point spread of the match(es).
 - (2) If still tied, comparison of the point differential based on the total round robin competition. Point differential should be determined by subtracting the total points gained by opponents from the total points earned by the team. The highest remainder should be considered the superior team for tie-breaking purposes.
 - (3) If still tied, position shall be determined by coin toss.
 - b) **If playing match play (2 out of 3) in pool play:**
 - (1) Head to head results.
 - (2) Set percentage (sets won by team divided by total sets played).
 - (3) Point percentage (total points earned by the team in pool play divided by total points earned by the team's opponents in pool play).
 - 2) **More teams tied for a playoff position than there are positions.** The tied teams must compete for the position in further direct competition. Direct competition must take place to determine which tied team will go to the Championship bracket vs. the Consolation bracket, or to determine which tied team will advance to a playoff bracket vs. which team will be finished after pool play.
 - 3) **In direct competition to determine tie breakers for a playoff positions,** at least one additional 25 point set should be played. Teams will change sides at 13 point. No cap shall be in effect. Where tournament guidelines stipulate, a 15 point set may be used.
 - 4) **Examples of tie-breaking procedures:**
 - a) Two teams tie for last position: one 25 point set.
 - b) Three teams tie for last position in a playoff bracket: the team with the highest point differential (Team #1) shall receive a bye. Teams 2 & 3 shall play one 25 point set, and the winner of that set plays Team #1 in a 25 point set to determine who will receive the last position. Two 25 point sets total to break tie.

- c) Four teams tie for last position: As determined by point differential, Team #1 vs. Team #4 will play a 25 point set; Team #2 vs. Team #3 in a 25 point set; winners play a 25 point set to determine who will receive the last position. Three 25 point sets total to break tie.
- d) Three teams tie for two playoff positions: The team with the highest point differential will receive the first playoff position. The other two teams shall play one 25 point set for the remaining playoff position. If all three teams are tied based on head-to-head competition and point differential, follow the procedure outlined in 4b (Team #1 with the bye determined by a coin flip).

ARTICLE IX - LEAGUE REQUIREMENTS

- A) Cost.** Maximum \$45.00 entry fee per session per team, unless requested in the Application for Sanction. The sanction fee is \$10 per team.
- B) All players and coaches must be USAV members, and coaches must have a current background screening. Officials (referees and scorekeepers) should become certified.**
- C) Listed in calendar.** Once the league is officially sanctioned, the league shall be listed on the Iowa Region Calendar of Events.
- D) Recommended Method of play for 2-4 dates.**
 - 1) Each match will consist of 2 - 25 point rally sets, if time allows. When teams are changing courts you may play the described sets but the last set may not be fully completed.
 - 2) Minimum of two to three matches per session.
 - 3) League shall consist of a round robin format.
 - 4) If desired, teams in the lower part of the pool may have an opportunity to challenge up.
 - 5) Tie breakers shall be played off.
- E) Recommended Method of play for weekly leagues**
 - 1) Each match will consist of 2 - 25 point rally sets and third set can either be to 15 points or 25 points.
 - 2) League shall consist of a round robin format.
 - 3) If desired, teams in the lower part of the pool may have an opportunity to challenge up.
- F) Teams unable to play on a given date.** When teams are unable to play on a specific date they are responsible for finding their own replacement; and any monetary exchange will be handled between team representatives. The record of the substitute team will be used.
- G) Morning and afternoon sessions.** It is suggested that sessions alternate AM to PM so that teams do not always have to travel early or late.
- H) Awards.** Individual awards are presented to the first and second place teams in each division at the end of the league. (When planning awards the Tournament Director should plan on 12 per team.)