



Becoming an Indoor Volleyball Referee at the National & International Level

The Director for National Referee Certification & Evaluation and the Director for Junior National Referee Certification & Evaluation, upon the recommendation of the National Commission for Evaluation and Development, certify USA Volleyball Junior National and USA Volleyball National referees.

In accordance with Article 8, Section B 1 of the Operating Code, all referees must be registered with USA Volleyball through their local RVA for the current season.

1. USA Volleyball Junior National Referee

A. To become certified as a USA Volleyball Junior National referee a candidate must:

1. File the official application with the Director for Junior National Referee Certification & Evaluation. Application forms and instructions for completing them, are available at: <http://usavolleyball.org/pages/6520>. An application fee of \$150.00 payable to USAV National Referee Commission must accompany the application. The mailing address is found within the instructions on the application.
2. Obtain the approval/signatures of the Regional Referee Chair, Regional Commissioner and Regional Scorekeeper Chair on the appropriate application form.
3. Demonstrate proficiency as a scorekeeper by providing evidence of certification as a Regional, Junior National or National scorekeeper or by successfully completing the written scorekeeper examination if no scorekeeper certification program exists in the candidate's region. As part of the evaluation process, each candidate will be required to take and pass a scorekeeper's practical exam at the certification event. National scorekeepers are not required to take this practical exam.
4. Take the current Form A version of the approved USAV rules examination for referees in accordance to the guidelines in the candidate's region. The application must be accompanied by the original test answer sheet, corrected to 100%.

NOTE: By agreement of the PAVO and the USAV Official's Division, a certified PAVO National referee may be certified as a USAV Junior National referee without meeting requirement #2 above. The individual must be in good standing in his/her region and must be recommended by the PAVO. A request must be sent to the Assistant Vice President (AVP), National Referee Commission by April 1. Upon acceptance by the AVP, the referee may attend that year's Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships and is not required to fulfill the obligations of Junior National referee candidates, but will be reviewed on two matches. The referee must also pay the Officials Division dues for that year but is not required to pay the \$150 candidate application fee.

5. Attend the designated USA Volleyball event and successfully complete all requirements at that tournament. This tournament is typically the USA Girls Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships. The event requirements include (but are not limited to):

- a. Attendance at all the pre-tournament Officials' Clinics and Candidates' Meetings that are scheduled the day/night prior to the first day of competition, and remain available to work at the event until the completion of the tournament or session in which the ratings occur.
 - b. Successful completion of the evaluation session(s).
 - c. Forfeiture of all match fees to the Officials' Division of USA Volleyball for matches worked during the rating process. Candidates will retain fees earned from matches worked after the completion of the rating process will be paid to the candidate. Candidates must plan to be available for assignment until the end of the tournament or session in which the ratings occur.
6. Upon successful completion of these requirements, the candidate will receive a USA Volleyball Junior National referee certification and patch.

NOTE: The deadline for submitting an application is April 1. Candidates will be notified of their acceptance status by May 1.

B. Responsibilities and entitlements of a USA Volleyball Junior National referee:

1. After certification by the National Commission for Evaluation and Development, a USA Volleyball Junior National referee will be entitled to wear the official USA Volleyball Junior National referee patch while officiating at USA Volleyball-sanctioned events.
2. A USA Volleyball Junior National referee is authorized to officiate all USA Volleyball-sanctioned competition within any of the USA Volleyball regions, including Junior Olympic Volleyball competition, and is qualified to officiate at the USA Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships. Junior National referees may also be requested to officiate at the USA Volleyball Adult Open Championships, as determined by the needs of the tournament and the Officials Division.
3. Certification as a USA Volleyball Junior National referee is valid for a period of four (4) years. To maintain certification, the referee must:
 - a. Officiate at the USA Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships in at least two different years during each four-year certification period.
 - b. Officiate at a USA Volleyball Junior Qualifying Tournament, the Starlings Tournament, the NIRSA Club Championships, the USA Girls Invitational, a USA Volleyball Junior Boys bid event, or the USA Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships during one of the remaining two years of the four-year period.
 - c. Submit to re-evaluation by the National Commission for Evaluation and Development at any time while officiating at a USAV sanctioned event.
 - d. Each year, score a minimum of 90% on Form A or B of the current USA Volleyball rules examination for referees, using the closed-book method. USAV Junior National referees must submit a copy of their answer sheet or have their results sent electronically (if the test was taken on-line) by February 15 to the Assistant Vice President, National Referee Commission.
 - e. Register annually as a member of a USA Volleyball region and remain an active referee in good standing with his/her RVA.

f. Remit annual dues as levied by the Officials Division of USA Volleyball by the date established by the Division. Details about the fee can be obtained at www.usavolleyball.org/officials.

4. A USA Volleyball Junior National referee may be absent from all national and zonal competition one year out of each four-year certification period.

5. A USAV Junior National referee encountering unusual difficulty in meeting the attendance requirements may request, in writing, a one-year extension of certification. The request must be submitted to the Assistant Vice President, National Referee Commission, and must be received before the deadline for registration of a National tournament.

6. A USAV Junior National referee with a minimum of six (6) years of certification at that level, who allows that certification to expire, has two options for recertification:

a. If the referee wishes to re-certify within the three years immediately following expiration of the rating, the referee must:

1) Submit an application and a summary of volleyball activities for the previous three (3) years.

2) Affirm membership within the respective USA Volleyball region during the period since expiration.

3) Send the application and summary to the Director for Junior National Referee Certification and Evaluation, who may authorize the candidate to attend a USA Girls' Junior Olympic Volleyball Championship for re-evaluation. The recertification candidate must pay the \$150.00 candidate fee, and follow the procedures as noted in Section I.A.5 above.

b. If the referee wishes to re-certify after the three-year period following expiration of the rating, the recertification candidate must apply through his/her region as noted in Section I above.

***NOTE:** Applications for new Junior National referees and existing referees requesting re-evaluation will be given priority over applications submitted under the provisions for expired certifications.*

C. Repercussions for not fulfilling the requirements of a USA Volleyball Junior National Referee:

1. A USA Volleyball Junior National referee who does not submit his/her dues by the deadline will be assessed a late fee of 50%. If the dues and the late fee are not received by the subsequent deadline, the Junior National certification will be rescinded.

2. A USA Volleyball Junior National referee who submits a corrected Form A or B rules exam after the deadline will not be confirmed to work as a referee for the USA Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships during that year. Only an accepted status will be granted (see 5b below).

3. A USA Volleyball Junior National referee who does not submit a corrected Form A or B rules exam before May 31 will lose the USAV Junior National referee certification.

4. A USA Volleyball Junior National referee who fails to achieve the minimum score (90%) on either the Form A or B rules exam, but still submits the score by the testing deadline, will be placed on a one-year probation.

- a. During that probationary year, the referee may not work the 16 through 18 Open level at any JOVC, and will not be assigned to any Final match.
 - b. If a referee does not achieve the minimum score on the Form A or Form B exam for a second consecutive year, the Junior National certification will be rescinded.
5. A USA Volleyball Junior National referee who does not register to work a USA Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships by the established deadline will not be confirmed to work that tournament.
- a. A USA Volleyball Junior National referee is confirmed to work a USA Junior Olympic Volleyball Championship if the dues (plus late fee, if applicable) are paid, the corrected rules exam is submitted by the deadline, and he/she registers for the tournament by the deadline. A confirmed referee will be assigned to work the number of matches requested in the registration (up to a maximum of 6/day, except for the last day of any session).

Note: The number of assignments is further dependent upon the number of teams and referees registered for the tournament.

- b. A USA Volleyball Junior National referee is accepted to work a USA Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships if the rules exam is not received by the deadline, or if he/she registers for the tournament after the deadline. An accepted referee is guaranteed only those matches needed to maintain a certification and to meet attendance requirements at the tournament. All other matches assigned will be on an as-needed basis.
- c. A USA Volleyball Junior National referee who pays dues (and late fee, if applicable) and meets the examination requirement can register to work a USA Junior Olympic Volleyball Championship at any time up to the actual dates of the event, and will be assigned to the matches needed to maintain a certification or show attendance at an event.
- d. A USA Volleyball Junior National referee who does not attend the required tournaments during the four (4) year certification period, and does not ask for the one-year extension of certification, will be placed on a one-year probation period.

1) In the year following probation, if the referee does not attend a required tournament, the USA Volleyball Junior National certification will be rescinded.

2) In the year following probation, if the referee attends a required tournament, a one-year certification extension will be granted. If the referee attends a required tournament in the second year following the probation, a new four (4) year certification period is awarded.

2. USA Volleyball Junior National Referee (Retired)

A. Any USAV Junior National referee in good standing, with at least eight (8) years of service as a USAV Junior National Referee, may apply to the Assistant Vice President, National Referee Commission, for voluntary retired status.

B. To continue working as a referee with USAV, a USAV Junior National Referee (Retired) must register annually with USA Volleyball and the appropriate RVA and remain an active referee in good

standing within his/her RVA. Remaining in good standing within the RVA includes but is not limited to, satisfying all requirements for recertification as a Regional referee within that RVA.

1. If a USAV Junior National Referee (Retired) does not wish to work as a referee with USAV, they are not required to remain in good standing within the RVA. The referee will not be allowed to referee at any USAV event, but they will retain their Junior National Referee (Retired) status.

C. A USAV Junior National Referee (Retired) is authorized to wear the USAV Junior National Referee patch while officiating at USAV sanctioned events.

D. A USAV Junior National Referee (Retired) is authorized to officiate all USAV-sanctioned regional and inter-regional competition, including Junior Olympic volleyball competition and Junior Zonal Qualifying Tournaments.

E. A USAV Junior National Referee (Retired) may be periodically requested to submit to re-evaluation by the National Commission for Junior National Referee Certification and Evaluation.

F. A USAV Junior National Referee (Retired) may apply for recertification as a USAV Junior National Referee by following the procedures set forth in Section I.B.6.a above. The USAV Junior National Referee (Retired) will not be required to pay the \$150.00 candidate fee.

G. Application for retired status must occur either during or immediately after a year in which the Junior National Referee is in good standing with the Officials' Division. This includes being certified as a USAV Junior National Referee and paying dues for that year. (Deadline: February 15 of the following year.)

3. USA Volleyball National Referee

A. To become certified as a USA Volleyball National referee, a candidate must:

1. Have served as a certified USAV Junior National referee for at least one (1) year.
2. File the official application with the Director for National Referee Certification & Evaluation. Application forms and instructions for completing them are available at: <http://usavolleyball.org/pages/6520>. An application fee of \$150.00 payable to USAV National Referee Commission must accompany the application. The mailing address is found within the instructions on the application.
3. Obtain the approval/signatures of the Regional Referee Chair, Regional Commissioner, and Regional Scorekeeper Chair on the appropriate application form.
4. Demonstrate proficiency as a scorekeeper by showing evidence of certification as a Regional, Junior National, or National scorekeeper, or by successfully completing the written scorekeeper examination if no scorekeeper certification program exists in the candidate's region.
5. Attain a score of 90 on Form A or B of the approved USA Volleyball rules examination for referees and have the score submitted to the Assistant Vice-President, National Referee Commission by the deadline. This test must be taken without the use of the rulebook or other resources (i.e., closed-book).
6. Have refereed at the USA Boys' Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships or the NIRSA Collegiate Sports Club Championships within the last year or had this requirement waived by the Director for National Referee Evaluation and Certification. Waiver of the requirement

can occur if the candidate demonstrates a prior record of officiating high level boys' or men's volleyball.

NOTE: *A referee who is currently a PAVO certified National referee may, by reciprocal agreement, become a candidate, upon recommendation of the PAVO, without meeting requirements 1, 3, and 6 above. However, if the PAVO candidate has attended the USA Boys Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships and failed to qualify as a candidate for certification as a USA Volleyball National referee, that individual is required to obtain the approval of the USAV National Referee Commission before the waivers of the reciprocal agreement will be allowed. The USAV National Commission for Certification and Evaluation, upon evaluation of any PAVO candidate for certification as a USA Volleyball National referee, may award:*

- a. certification as a USAV National referee;*
- b. certification as a USAV Junior National referee;*
- c. no certification.*

7. Attend the designated USA Volleyball junior tournament and successfully complete all requirements at that tournament. This tournament is typically the USA Boys' Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships. The requirements to be completed at the event include:

- a. Attendance at all the pre-tournament Official's Clinic and Candidates' Meeting which take place the day/night prior to the first day of competition, and remain available to work at the event until the completion of the tournament or session in which the ratings occur.
- b. Successful completion of the evaluation sessions.
- c. Forfeiture of all match fees to the Officials' Division of USA Volleyball for matches worked during the rating process. Candidates will retain fees earned from matches worked after the completion of the rating process. Candidates must plan to be available for assignment until the end of the tournament or session in which the ratings occur.

8. Upon successful completion of these requirements, the candidate will receive a USA Volleyball National referee certification and patch. The process will be completed the following year at the USA Adult Open Championships where all candidates will be introduced during the National referee clinic. In addition, new National referees will be mentored during their first Open Championships to complete their training process.

NOTE: *The deadline for submitting an application is April 1. Candidates will be notified by May 1 of their status.*

B. Responsibilities and entitlements of a USA Volleyball National Referee:

- 1. After certification by the National Commission for Evaluation and Development, a USA Volleyball National referee will be entitled to wear the official USA Volleyball National referee patch while officiating at USA Volleyball-sanctioned events.
- 2. A USA Volleyball National referee is authorized to officiate all USA Volleyball-sanctioned competition, and is qualified to officiate at the USA Volleyball Adult Open Championships.

3. Certification as a USA Volleyball National referee is valid for a period of three (3) years. To maintain certification, the referee must:

- a. Officiate at the USA Volleyball Adult Open Championships in at least one year during the three-year certification period.
- b. Officiate at a USA Volleyball Junior Qualifying Tournament, the Starlings Tournament, the NIRSA Club Championships, the USA Volleyball Girls Invitational, a USA Volleyball Junior boys bid event, the USA Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships, or the USA Volleyball Adult Open Championships once during one of the remaining two years of the three-year period.
- c. Submit to re-evaluation by the National Commission for Evaluation and Development at any time while officiating at a USAV sanctioned event.
- d. Each year, successfully complete Form A or B of the approved USA Volleyball rules examinations for referees, obtaining a minimum score of 90%, using the closed-book method. USAV National referees must submit a copy of their answer sheet or have their results sent electronically (if he/she took the test on-line) by February 15 to the Assistant Vice President, National Referee Commission.
- e. Register annually with USA Volleyball and remain an active referee in good standing with his/her RVA.
- f. Remit annual fees as levied by the Officials Division of USA Volleyball by the date established by that Division. Details about the fee can be obtained at <http://usavolleyball.org/pages/405>.

4. A USA Volleyball National referee may be absent from all national and zonal competition one year out of each three-year certification period.

5. A USA Volleyball National referee encountering unusual difficulty in attending a qualified USAV national event may request, in writing, a one-year extension of certification. The request must be submitted to the Assistant Vice President, National Referee Commission, and must be received before the deadline for registration of a National tournament

6. A USA Volleyball National referee, with a minimum of five (5) years of certification, who allows that certification to expire, has the following option for re-certification:

- a. If the referee wishes to re-certify within three (3) years immediately following expiration of the rating, the recertification candidate must:
 - 1) Submit an application and a summary of volleyball activities for the previous three (3) years, and affirm membership within the respective USA Volleyball region during the period since expiration.
 - 2) Send the application and summary to the Director for National Referee Certification and Evaluation, who may authorize the candidate to attend the USA Junior Olympic Boys' Volleyball Championships for re-evaluation. The recertification candidate must pay the \$150.00 candidate fee and follow the procedures as noted in Section III.A.7 above.
 - 3) If the referee wishes to re-certify after the three-year period following expiration of the rating, the recertification candidate must apply through his/her region as noted in Section III above.

NOTE: Applications for new National referees and existing referees requesting re-evaluation will be given priority over applications submitted under the provisions for expired certifications.

C. Repercussions for not fulfilling the requirements of a USA Volleyball National Referee

1. A USA Volleyball National referee who does not submit his/her dues by the deadline will be assessed a late fee of 50%. If the dues and the late fee are not received by the subsequent deadline, the National referee certification will be rescinded.
2. A USA Volleyball National referee who submits a corrected Form A or B rules exam after the deadline will not be confirmed to work as a referee for the USA Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships or the USA Volleyball Open Championships during that year. Only an accepted status will be granted.
3. A USA Volleyball National referee who does not submit a corrected Form A or B rules exam before May 31 will lose their USAV National certification.
4. A USA Volleyball National referee who fails to achieve the minimum score on either Form A or Form B of the rules exam, but still submits the score by the testing deadline, will be placed on a one-year probation.
 - a. During that year, the referee may not work the Open level at the Adult Open Championships, or the 16 through 18 Open level at any JOVC tournament they attend, and will not be assigned to any Final match.
 - b. If a referee does not achieve the minimum score on the Form A or B rules exam for a second consecutive year, the National certification will be rescinded.
5. A USA Volleyball National referee who does not register to work a USA Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships or USA Volleyball Adult Open Championships by the established deadline will not be confirmed to work that tournament.
 - a. A USA Volleyball National referee is confirmed to work a USA Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships and/or USA Volleyball Adult Open Championships if the dues (plus late fee, if applicable) are paid, the corrected rules exam is submitted by the deadline, and he/she registers for the tournament by the deadline. A confirmed referee is guaranteed to work the number of matches requested in the registration (up to a maximum of 6/day, except for the last day of any session). This number of matches will also depend on the number of teams registered for the tournament.
 - b. A USA Volleyball National referee is accepted to work a USA Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships and/or USA Volleyball Adult Open Championships if the rules exam is not received by the deadline, and/or if he/she registers for the tournament after the deadline. An accepted referee is guaranteed only those matches needed to maintain a certification and to meet attendance requirements at the tournament. All other matches assigned will be on an as needed basis.
 - c. A USA Volleyball National referee who pays dues (and late fee, if applicable) and meets the examination requirements can register to work a USA Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships and/or the USA Volleyball Adult Open Championships at any time up to the actual dates of the event, and will be assigned to the matches needed to maintain a certification or show attendance at the event.

d. A USA Volleyball National referee who does not attend the required tournaments during the three (3) year certification period, and does not ask for the one-year extension of certification, will be placed on a one-year probation period.

1) In the year following their probation, if the referee does not attend a required tournament, the USA Volleyball National certification will be rescinded.

2) In the year following probation, if the referee attends a required tournament, a one-year extension certification will be granted. If the referee attends a required tournament in the second year following the probation, a new three (3) year certification period is awarded.

4. USA Volleyball National Referee (Retired)

A. Any USAV National referee in good standing, with at least six (6) years of service as a USAV National referee, may apply to the Assistant Vice President, National Referee Commission for voluntary retired status.

B. To continue working as a referee with USAV, a USAV National Referee (Retired) must register annually with USA Volleyball and the appropriate RVA and remain an active referee in good standing within his/her RVA. Remaining in good standing within the RVA includes but is not limited to, satisfying all requirements for recertification as a Regional referee within that RVA.

1. If a USAV National Referee (Retired) does not wish to work as a referee with USAV, they are not required to remain in good standing within the RVA. The referee will not be allowed to officiate at any USAV event, but they will retain their National Referee (Retired) status.

C. A USAV National Referee (Retired) is authorized to wear the USAV National referee patch while officiating at USA Volleyball-sanctioned events.

D. A USAV National Referee (Retired) is authorized to officiate all USA Volleyball-sanctioned regional and inter-regional competition, including Junior Olympic Volleyball competition and the USA Volleyball Junior Zonal Qualifying Tournaments.

E. A USAV National Referee (Retired) may also remain qualified to officiate at the USA Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships by officiating at that tournament at least once every three years and submitting to re-evaluation by the National Commission for Junior National Certification and Evaluation at any time while officiating at the USA Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships or a USA Volleyball Junior Zonal Qualifying Tournament.

F. A USAV National Referee (Retired) may apply for recertification as a USA National referee by following the procedures set forth in Section III.B.6.a above. The USAV National Referee (Retired) will not be required to pay the \$150.00 candidate fee.

G. Application for retired status must occur either during or immediately after a year in which the National Referee is in good standing with the Officials' Division. This includes being certified as a USAV National Referee and paying dues for that year. (Deadline: February 15 of the following year.)

5. Provisional USA International Referee

To become a Provisional USA International referee, the referee must:

- A. Be a currently certified USA National referee and have held certification for no less than three consecutive years.
- B. Be currently in good standing with the appropriate Regional Volleyball Association as well as USA Volleyball and be active in Regional and USA Championship Events.
- C. File the official application with the Assistant Vice President, USA National Referee Commission, containing the approval of:
 - 1. The appropriate regional commissioner
 - 2. The National Commissioner for Certification and Evaluation
 - 3. The AVP of USA-National Referees
 - 4. The AVP of USA International Referees

The application must also include an endorsement by an International Referee or coach with international experience. These forms are available from the Assistant Vice President, USA National Referee Commission, the chair of the Certification and Evaluation, or the Assistant Vice President, USA-FIVB International Referee Commission.

D. Pay the appropriate fee, designated by the USA Volleyball Officials Division.

E. Practical evaluations:

- 1. Attend an evaluation at an event organized and sanctioned by the USA Volleyball High Performance Program. An evaluation of "Very Good" as completed on the FIVB Referee Evaluation Form R-4 must be obtained.
- 2. Within a two-year period, attend three additional selected tournaments from a list approved by the USA-International Referee Commission at which members of the Commission are present and obtain evaluations of "Very Good" on the R-4 Form as completed by the members of the Commission.

F. Provisional USA International Referees, having completed the requirements, will be ranked for attendance at an available FIVB International Referee Candidate Course.

6. Candidate for International Referee

To become a candidate for international FIVB referee certification, a referee must:

- A. Have completed the requirements to become a Provisional USA International Referee.
- B. Obtain approval from the USA-International Referee Commission to attend an approved FIVB International Referee Candidate Course and successfully complete the Course, including theoretical testing, practical rating and scorekeeping requirements.
- C. Not have attained the age of 41 when attending the approved FIVB international referee clinic.