



From the Office of the Executive Director

ATHLETE AFFILIATIONS, RELEASES, & TRANSFERS FOR INDOOR JUNIOR CLUBS

July 21, 2022

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball, incorporated in 1982, has a long history of providing comprehensive training and competition for our members. The mission of the corporation is to provide competitive playing opportunities for players of all ages. Our board of directors and staff work diligently towards this goal with every program offered throughout the region.

From time to time unique situations arise that highlight the need for clarification of Florida Region policies. In light of continuing activities, we are preparing this official statement to highlight the current policies of the Florida Region as they apply to club affiliation, player releases and transfers.

As a policy matter, the Florida Region requires all interested parties to become familiar and abide by the following:

- Club Directors have agreed to abide by the Florida Region Club Director Code of Ethics.
- Coaches have agreed to abide by the USAV Jr. Personnel Code of Ethics.
- Parents/Spectators must abide by the Florida Region Spectator/Parent Code of Conduct when attending any USAV sanctioned event.
- Officials have agreed to abide by the Florida Region Good Standing policy.

The policy and standard practice of the Florida Region regarding player releases and transfers for junior athletes is as follows:

1. Athletes interested in participating in any USAV sanctioned activities in the Florida Region (tryouts, camps, clinics, scrimmages, tournaments, leagues, etc.) must be a current member of the Florida Region. It is recommended that all junior athletes joining or renewing with the Florida Region choose a club only when they are ready to commit to a specific junior club for an entire season.
2. During the tryout process, junior athletes may try out for as many clubs as desired to become familiar with the various playing options available in their respective areas. The Florida Region recommends that junior athletes attend multiple tryouts each season prior to selecting a junior club.
3. Athletes may officially accept a club's digital invitation and commit to a USAV Club in Florida beginning on September 1st of each year.

4. Once a junior athlete has selected the club of their choice, they must accept the digital club invitation sent by the club in their SportsEngine Profile. (Once an athlete accepts a digital club invitation, they will only be able to transfer to another USAV club after obtaining a written release from the club they wish to depart). Note: During the membership purchase process, each junior member (or their parent/guardian) will have agreed to the Florida Region Athlete Club Commitment Agreement.
5. In addition to accepting a club's digital invitation listed above in item 4, athletes and their families may be required by the junior club to also execute a player/parent agreement to join a specific club. This is not a requirement of the Florida Region, but it is recommended to assist the club and family with outlining the rights and responsibilities of both parties. (Note: The Florida Region cautions families to carefully review any agreements presented by a club prior to affixing their signature. Additionally, in any matter that may be unclear, the Florida Region suggests that the family in question seek legal counsel prior to executing said agreement. Finally, the Florida Region highly recommends that each family request and receive a copy of the executed agreement for their personal records.)
6. If an athlete/family decides to depart a junior club during the respective season, the following steps must take place:
 - a. Transfer policy: There are no transfers allowed in the Florida Region without extenuating circumstances. A player can represent only one club during the Season. A change in geographical location of the family due to a change in job, military, scholastic or inner-collegiate status may receive special consideration. No player may participate in different Qualifying events with different clubs/teams.
 - b. Release Policy: The athlete/family in question must submit a written request for release to the Club Director (to the club's email address) and to the Florida Region at membership@FloridaVolleyball.org stating the reason for the request. (Note: Club Directors will be required to respond to the Florida Region office within 5 calendar days of the date that the Florida Region sends inquiry for release to indicate the club's intention. Failure to respond in the time allotted will allow the athlete in question to be released in the USAV Membership Management System and the Florida Region will be absolved of any liability for releasing the athlete. Any outstanding financial obligations between the family and the club must be resolved between the related parties.)
 - It is important to note that all junior clubs in the Florida Region are required to have a written Club Release Policy on file with the Florida Region office to address what steps are required by each club to facilitate a club release once the season begins.
 - c. No releases will be completed without written release from the current club director(s) of the club that is listed on the athlete's USAV membership card. The Florida Region will not release or transfer a junior athlete until the written release is received by the Florida Region office.
 - Note 1: In the event that a club elects not to release an athlete, but is unable to provide proof of any of the following: a. A spot on an age-appropriate team with at least 6 athletes and a USAV qualified coach b. A team that is accepted into at least two USAV sanctioned tournaments c. A team that holds active practices for the team, the athlete will be released without the requirement of a written release from the USAV club so that they may get the full benefits of their USAV membership. Note: Clubs must provide verifiable proof to the

Florida Region office within 3 business days of the request. Note: All personal business/legal commitments made between the club and the family will remain the responsibility of the related parties. The Florida Region will not be responsible for enforcing private agreements.

- Note 2: Additionally, in the event that a junior athlete relocates more than 100 miles from the sanctioned practice location of their previous club or outside of the Florida Region during the season in question, the Florida Region may release and transfer a junior athlete without following the two steps listed above in “a” and “b”. Proof of residency must be provided by the family at the time of the release/transfer request with the Florida Region.

- d. Current memberships may not be cancelled to bypass the release requirements.
- e. Once an athlete has participated in a National or Regional Qualifier Event they may not be released for the remainder of the season to another club.

7. Once a written release is received and granted by the Florida Region, the junior athlete in question will be removed from the previous club in the member management system and the athlete may then accept a new digital club invitation from the club of their choice for the remainder of the season.

8. If a family elects to breach their agreement with a USAV club, the family will be responsible for any/all legal action initiated by the club regarding the matter. The Florida Region cannot get involved other than to provide any supporting documentation requested by the attorney(s) of the interested parties. Additionally, without a formal written release the junior athlete will be prohibited from being rostered with another USAV team during the same season, unless the junior athlete relocates outside of the District or the Florida Region.

9. Please see Appendix A incorporated in this document regarding club transfers for 18U Girls Juniors.

It is the desire of the Florida Region for all interested parties involved in a player release and transfer situation to arrive at a mutually beneficial resolution. In the event that a timely resolution cannot be reached, the Florida Region will consistently enforce the policies and standard practices listed above. The Florida Region cannot legally interfere with a private business agreement between a family and a club once executed. If a dispute arises by virtue of a non-release situation, the Florida Region may provide assistance to the degree that it is agreeable by both parties. Once the process stalls, it is advisable for both parties to seek legal counsel to arrive at a resolution of the matter.

We stand available to assist all members of the Florida Region. Our hope is that this Official Statement will educate and offer guidance to all Florida Region members regarding player affiliations, releases, and transfers.

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Bishop
Executive Director/President

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Appendix A

Florida Region of USA Volleyball Club Transfer Flow Chart (18U Indoor)

Please use the questions below to determine if you have an athlete (that is 18 or turning 18 this year) that would be eligible for a club transfer.

**If eligible for a transfer the athlete still needs to follow the release requirements, requesting a release from their current club. The Florida Region sets the policy for club transfers. The clubs involved determine the criteria for a club release & acceptance.

1 – Has the athlete participated in a USAV qualifier?

1a – If no, the athlete is eligible for a transfer**

1b – If yes, go to **#2**

2 – Is the athlete 18U **and** a senior in high school?

2a – If no, the athlete is **not** eligible for a transfer

2b – If yes, go to **#3**

3 – Has the Girls' 18s USAV National Championship concluded?

3a – If yes, the athlete is eligible for a transfer**

3b – If no, the athlete is **not** eligible for a transfer