USA VOLLEYBALL ALCOHOL POLICY AT JUNIOR EVENTS

Effective Date: May 6, 2025 (Revised)

I. PURPOSE

USA Volleyball (USAV) is committed to providing a safe and positive environment for junior athletes, their families, and event participants. This policy establishes clear guidelines regarding the sale and consumption of alcohol at all USAV-sanctioned junior events.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

The sale and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages is **strictly prohibited** in any space leased for the purpose of conducting USA Volleyball-sanctioned junior events. Additional restrictions and precautions apply to alcohol use in non-leased areas of event venues.

III. DEFINITIONS

- **Leased Space:** Any area formally contracted for the use of volleyball competition, team assembly, warm-up, or event operations.
- **Junior Participant:** Any athlete registered to compete in the junior division (under 18) at a USAV event.
- **Spectator Area:** The designated space for attendees to observe matches, including bleachers and other public viewing areas.
- **Adjacent to Courts:** Any area in visible proximity to competition zones, regardless of physical barriers.

IV. VENUE & OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. **Alcohol Restriction Zones:**
    - No alcohol is permitted in or near:
        - Competition courts
        - Warm-up areas
        - Athlete pathways or staging areas
        - Public areas such as lobbies, exhibitor booths, merchandise zones, and results areas
2. **Controlled Alcohol Service Areas (Non-Leased Venue Spaces):**
    - Alcohol service zones must be **roped off**, clearly **signed** as restricted, and **inaccessible to juniors**
    - Alcoholic beverages may **not be removed** from these designated areas
    - **Juniors must not pass through or near** alcohol service zones; if unavoidable, alternate routing or physical partitions must be provided

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3. **Facility & Insurance Requirements:**
    - The facility must hold a valid liquor license and liability insurance
    - A **Certificate of Insurance (COI)** must be submitted to USAV in advance, listing the following as **additional insureds**:
        - USA Volleyball
        - The Event Organizer/Club
        - The Event Director

V. ENFORCEMENT & STAFFING

1. **Event Staff and Security Responsibilities:**
    - All staff and security must receive pre-event **alcohol-awareness training**
    - Staff should monitor for and **intervene** in cases where alcohol is outside the designated service area
    - **Monitoring Intoxication and Behavior**
        - Event staff and security personnel are responsible for ensuring that visibly intoxicated individuals do not enter or remain in proximity to court areas, warm-up zones, athlete pathways, or any other area designated for junior athlete access or participation
        - Individuals exhibiting signs of intoxication (e.g., slurred speech, impaired motor skills, aggressive behavior, etc.) should be discreetly evaluated and, if necessary, removed from the venue by trained security staff in accordance with the event's incident protocol.
2. **Signage and Credentialing:**
    - Signs must clearly state: "**No Alcohol in Spectator Viewing or Junior Athlete Areas**"
    - Juniors should be **clearly identifiable** (e.g., wristbands or athlete badges) to assist enforcement
3. **Incident Protocol:**
    - Staff must follow an **escalation protocol** for addressing violations, which includes:
        - Verbal warning
        - Notification to security
        - Possible removal from the event

VI. COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION

1. **Advance Notice:**
    - Alcohol policies must be included in:
        - Event registration packets

    - Spectator information
    - Pre-event email communications
2. **On-Site Announcements:**
    - A reminder of the alcohol policy should be included in public address announcements, event programs, and digital signage, where applicable

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VII. NON-COMPLIANCE & CONSEQUENCES

Violations of this policy may result in:

- Removal of individuals from the event venue
- Fines or sanctions against clubs or directors
- Denial of future sanctioning privileges

VIII. POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually by the USA Volleyball Events Department and may be revised based on venue experiences, legal updates, or best practices.

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