

USA VOLLEYBALL ALCOHOL POLICY AT USAV SANCTION JUNIOR EVENTS

Effective Date: October 1, 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
 - Event staff rooms, production control areas, and VIP lounges

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
 - 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
 - Regional Volleyball Association of USA Volleyball
 - The Event Organizer/Club
 - The Event Director
 - At least five days prior to the event, the COI shall be sent to Amber Scott at amber.scott@usav.org.
-

V. ENFORCEMENT & STAFFING

1. **Event Staff and Security Responsibilities:**
 -
 - Event staff and security personnel 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 include:
 - 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

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. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: Why the alcohol policy?

A: The goal of the alcohol policy is to create safe, family-friendly environments for junior athletes while still allowing venues to operate within their normal business model. What is strictly prohibited is the sale or consumption of alcohol in leased volleyball spaces — competition courts, warm-up areas, staging zones, pathways, and public event zones.

Q: Is controlled alcohol service still permitted?

A: Yes. In non-leased areas of a facility, alcohol sales can continue as long as they are clearly separated, roped off, and inaccessible to juniors. Drinks cannot be carried into court areas, but venues with mezzanines, restaurants, or bars can still serve provided they comply with signage, insurance, and access requirements.

Q: Can vendors or VIP lounges serve alcohol?

A: No. Alcohol is prohibited in any space leased for the event, including VIP and exhibitor areas.

Q: Can parents bring drinks from the venue bar into the courts area?

A: No. Alcohol may not be brought into or consumed in event-controlled spaces.

Q: What if someone refuses to comply?

A: Politely inform them of the policy, notify security, and escalate to the Event Director if needed.

Q: Is alcohol allowed after matches or during teardown?

A: No. The alcohol policy remains in effect **through the full term of the rental agreement**, including setup and teardown.

Q: Can a parent host a celebration in a hotel room with alcohol?

A: If the room is **not leased as part of the event**, USAV has no jurisdiction. However, staff should not participate in or endorse such gatherings if they could be perceived as affiliated with the event.

Q: What if a bar overlooks the courts (e.g., on a mezzanine)?

A: Event staff must coordinate with the venue to ensure:

- **Physical separation** from the courts
- **No junior access**
- **Strict enforcement** of alcohol boundaries

IX. Document Handling & Distribution

This document must be provided to all event staff and security personnel prior to the event. A printed copy must be kept at all staffing desks as part of the official Event Policies & Emergency Action Plan (EAP) packet.

- **Distribution required for:**
 - Event Directors
 - Promoters/Operators
 - Check-in staff
 - Arbitrators and Security
 - Include in any pre-event **credentialing kits or training briefings**.
-

X. Questions or Support

For clarification or to report a violation:

Events@usav.org

719-228-6800 (USA Volleyball)

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.