



Saturday, April 24, 2021
Sunday, April 25, 2021

**MINNESOTA
TOURNAMENT GUIDE**
Updated 4/22/21





Thank you to all the teams participating in the **NCR Area Championships!**

Attached you will find the official **Tournament Guide**. Please review this information carefully and feel free to share it with your coaches, players and families. This information can also be found on the [MN Area Championship tournament page](#) located under "Find an Event" on the NCR website.

There are several very important sections of the Tournament Guide that you should be sure to review in advance of the event:

- Balls
- Bench Roster
- Check-In
- COVID-19 Requirements and Expectations
- **Emergency Procedures**
- Entry Schedule
- Mask Policy
- Officiating/Scorekeeping
- Roster Requirements
- Spectator Admission
- Tournament Format/Match Format/Tie Breaking Procedures

Please let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to a great tournament!

North Country Region-USA Volleyball Staff

2021 NCR AREA CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT GUIDE

PRIORITY INFORMATION

Balls

NCR will provide Molten balls for all matches.

Warm up balls will NOT be provided. All teams must bring their own warm up balls and sanitize them.

Bench Roster

Team rosters must have one (1) adult head coach and a minimum of 6 players up to a maximum of 15 players. In addition, teams may have a maximum of three (3) assistant coaches. All of these individuals may be on the bench during play.

Note - up to 20 individuals (includes 1 head coach, players, assistant coaches and team managers) who are **officially rostered** on the team will be admitted into the event for free.

Check-In

All head coaches must turn in one (1) hard copy of their official USAV roster at the site director's table prior to their first match of the tournament. The USAV roster must be signed by the team representative at check-in. Official USA Volleyball Rosters are printed from the club's Governing Seasons in their SportsEngine HQ.

COVID-19 Requirements and Expectations

While the Region and USA Volleyball understand that states, municipalities, facilities, and sports can be broadly different across the nation in how COVID Safety practices are managed, North Country Region is required to set forth event COVID safety policies and protocols that meet the most current and the most strict guidelines currently applied. Our due diligence is based on safety protocols that assist in the prevention of and exposure to this virus and its variants while also meeting the requirements of USA Volleyball Covid guidelines.

The Region has and continues to work closely with the local tournament host, facility site directors, facilities, and local health officials to best ensure safety of all participants, spectators, and staff. To provide a consistent and comprehensive plan for the NCR Area Championships that also complies with USA Volleyball guidelines the Region's COVID Event Safety plan has been vetted and approved by our staff as well as the tournament host.

The Region does allow spectators and teams to live stream their matches rather than charging an additional fee for a livestream platform provided by the Region. This is an option that many have valued in being able to share a player's tournament experience.

All CDC, Minnesota Department of Health, facility and NCR mandates, requirements and policies will be followed in order to maintain the safety of all tournament attendees.

Requirements include:

- Wearing masks at all times – masks must cover the individual's nose and mouth
- Maintaining at least 6' social distance from others not in your immediate family
- Washing hands often
- Staying home if you are sick and getting a COVID-19 test if you are not feeling well
- **All teams may remain in the facility when they are not playing; however, they must maintain social distance and cannot congregate in public spaces**
- Spectators are encouraged to leave the facility when their team is not playing

See [COVID-19 Preparedness and Safety Plan](#), [NCR Mask Policy](#) and [NCR COVID-19 Exposure Plan](#).

Emergency Modifications

Should an occasion arise (facility or personnel issues, Act of God, emergencies, city curfews, etc.) affecting the locations of the facilities or clubs participating in the NCR Area Championships, modifications may need to be made to the tournament schedule, including the possibility of shortening playoff matches as follows:

- Playoff matches will be best of 2 sets
- If teams split sets, the team with the higher point differential will advance
- If there is an exact tie (e.g., 25-21, 21-25), one additional point will be played. The winner of the playoff point will advance.

The Region will do everything possible to ensure the event can take place and as much volleyball as possible can be played, while still adhering to the local safety guidelines; however, should a tournament need to conclude prior to completion, a champion will not be named.

Entry Schedule

A team entry schedule and a spectator entry schedule will be provided.

Mask Policy

ALL individuals in attendance at this tournament must wear a face mask that fully covers their nose and mouth at all times. This includes players and coaches who are participating on the court.

Medical exemptions will not be accepted at the event.

See [NCR MASK POLICY](#) for detailed information.

Officiating/Scorekeeping

- **A paid R1 referee will officiate all matches.**
- **Teams will need to provide one (R2), two (2) line judges and two (2) score table attendants when they are the work team**
 - No libero tracker will be utilized in order to reduce the number of individuals at the score table
 - Please make sure work team members are on time and ready to go
 - All work team members must wear **masks** covering their nose and mouth at all times
 - All work team participants must pay attention to play – no phones or food
- **A work team schedule can be found online on advancedeventsystems.com in conjunction with the match schedule**
 - To access the work team schedule, go to the tournament on AES, click on your team's age division and then click on your team's **Pool Sheet** – work teams will be listed to the far right on the pool schedule
 - Failure to provide the officiating crew for your assigned matches could result in the forfeit of the first set of your next match or further penalty if it is your final officiating assignment of the day

Roster Requirements – USAV Official Rosters

This is an NCR-USAV sanctioned event which requires valid rosters for the safety of all participants.

- All rostered participants (players, coaches, team reps, etc.) must be current and verified USAV members
- Teams must have a Head Coach (adult) on the bench
- All rostered adults must have a current USAV background screen and be SafeSport certified
- Teams must have a minimum of 6 players rostered and may have a maximum of 15 players
- Teams must be in full matching uniforms per USAV (unless a waiver has been provided in advance)
- Any team that fails to comply with roster requirements may receive sanctions.

Rosters must be submitted into AES from the SportsEngine Governing Season.

FINAL DEADLINE FOR TEAM ROSTER SUBMISSION IS SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2021 AT 11:59 PM CST.

Spectator Admission

- **Each team will be allowed 1 spectator per player (up to 15 spectators total)**
 - Individual spectators will purchase their own ticket through the Vanco Events online ticketing system in advance of the tournament - **no admission sales will take place on site during the tournament**
 - An online purchase link will be provided to share with players/parents
 - Admission is \$10 per person for the day
 - Tickets are valid ONLY for the specific site and session that the ticket is purchased for
 - Children 4 and under do not need a ticket if they are sitting on a lap

- Spectators may not enter the facility until their designated time - **REFER TO ENTRY SCHEDULE** for spectator entry times
 - **Spectators can either print out their Vanco ticket or show it on their mobile device when entering the event**
 - They will receive an admission wristband upon entry that will provide them with in and out access for the designated site throughout the day
 - Wristbands cannot be shared and are to be worn around the wrist ONLY - they should not be placed on purses, bags, etc.
 - The wristbands will be color coded for each day/venue – thus the spectator will only have access to the particular session that his/her team is scheduled in
- Spectators must agree to abide by all COVID-19 requirements including wearing masks at all times (must cover nose and mouth) and maintaining at least 6’ distance from other spectators not in their immediate family
 - **Mask medical exemptions will NOT be accepted**
- Specific seating areas may be assigned to each team’s spectators
- **Spectators are encouraged to leave the facility when their team is not playing**

Tournament Format, Match Format & Tie Breaking Procedures

- Teams will be placed in either pools of three (3) or four (4) depending on the number of teams in their division
- All teams will play pool play then playoffs
- **Pool Play Round**
 - Pool play matches in 4 team pools consist of 2 sets only - to 25.
 - If there is a tie (e.g., 1 set to 1 set), the match will be recorded as a tie
 - Pool play matches in 3 team pools play 3 sets to 25 regardless
 - If teams are tied at the end of the Initial Pool Play round, the following tie-breaker criteria will be used in this order without repetition to determine a team’s placement in the playoff round (there are NO tie-breaking sets played for this event):
 - Head-to-Head (only if 2 teams are tied)
 - Set %
 - Point Ratio
 - Coin Flip
- **Playoff Round**
 - Playoff matches will be best of 3 sets – first 2 sets to 25, third set (if necessary) to 15 – no cap on any set.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Awards

The **first and second place teams in the Gold Playoff Division** in each age division will receive an award.

Beverages

Water fountains/bottle fillers may be available. **Please make sure participants bring water containers.**

Concessions

Limited concessions will be available at Hope Fieldhouse and all Big Lake sites.

“Coin Toss”

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the R1 of each match may choose to use his/her own coin to toss or selection method to choose who will serve first (e.g., coaches' choice, top team on the bracket, etc.)

Division Modifications

11s and 12s

- The net will be set at 7'0" for the 11s and 12s divisions
- The Molten Volley Lite ball will be used for all matches (provided by NCR)
- The three-serve rule that allows a player to serve only three times **will not be used**
- The service line will be moved in 7 feet

14s Teams Playing in 15s Division

- If a 14s team is playing in a 15s division, the 14s team may NOT re-toss serves

First Aid

It is recommended that teams bring their own first aid kit. **There will be no trainer provided at playing sites.**

Forfeits

- If a team does not have six players or a USAV verified coach at game time, they automatically forfeit the first set.
- Should a team have 6 players or coach before 10 minutes has expired, the late team will be permitted use of the full court for a 4-minute warm-up before play begins.
- If a 6th player or coach has not arrived by 10 minutes after the scheduled match start time, the entire match will be a forfeit.
 - During pool play, a team that has forfeited can “scrimmage” with five players against their opponent for the allotted time. However, the match will still count as a forfeit.
 - If a team forfeits any match other than their first, they will automatically finish fourth in their pool.
 - During bracket play-offs, no “scrimmage” time will be allowed. **Score for a forfeit is 25-0, 25-0.**

Hotels

If you require hotel accommodations, please contact Tammy at 952-278-8515 or tbarnum@bloomington.org

Incident Reports

Should a participant or spectator be injured at the facility during the tournament, please make sure to complete an Incident Report prior to leaving the premises. See the Tournament Site Director.

Line Up Sheets

Line up Sheets will be available at the tournament site.

Live Streaming

NCR encourages teams to live stream their matches. We will allow standard streaming platforms (e.g., Facebook).

SPORFIE is the official live stream partner for North Country Region. To set up your SPORFIE account and provide details on how to connect to the team's feed to your families/fans contact Rich Uglum at rick@sporfie.com

Lost and Found

Any items left at the tournament site will be left at the site. Contact NCR at northcountryregion@gmail.com or 952-831-9150 for lost and found information.

Merchandise

Tournament merchandise will be available at all tournament sites and online on the NCR website (www.ncrusav.org).

Schedules / Scores / Results / Standings

All schedules will be posted online on www.advancedeventsystems.com. Please check there for the most up to date information.

To access tournament schedules, scores, results and standings on any device using a web browser:

- Go to www.advancedeventsystems.com
- Click on **EVENTS** at the top of the home page
- Search by the event name = **NCR AREA CHAMPIONSHIP - MN**
- Click on the gold **SCHEDULE POSTED** button to the right of the tournament you want to view
- Click on **Pool/Bracket, Teams** or **Standings** to view that information for the tournament division you want to view
- Bookmark this web page to access it when you want

Scores and schedules will NOT be posted at the sites - all info will be online.

Set Breaks

There will be 3 minutes between each set.

Site Addresses

Big Lake High School

501 Minnesota Ave - Big Lake, MN 55309

Big Lake Middle School

601 Minnesota Ave - Big Lake, MN 55309

Liberty Elementary

17901 205th Ave NW - Big Lake, MN 55309

Hope Fieldhouse

2645 145th St W - Rosemount, MN 55068

Sportsmanship

- MASKING is required by all attendees at all times. Failure to do so may result in a warning, and if necessary, expulsion from the facility and/or tournament
- Please clean up your area before leaving
- Please abide by all tournament rules and requirements
- NCR expects GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP from ALL - any participants or fans who fail to show good sportsmanship may be removed from the tournament

Time Outs

Time outs will be 30 seconds.

Uniforms

All team uniforms must comply with USA Volleyball Uniform Requirements.

Please notify NCR as soon as possible if you have any uniform concerns – NorthCountryRegion@gmail.com.

Waivered Players

North Country Region allows “waivered” players to participate in NCR hosted events which DO NOT have national bid implications (e.g., SmackFest, Area Championships, Region Championship).

- A player may be waivered based on their grade vs. their age
- Boys may participate on a girls’ team through 14u

In both instances, the player MUST receive an approved waiver from NCR in advance of being added to the tournament roster.

Warm-Ups

Pool Play

- Both teams can use their half of the court during the first 2-minute time period
- Teams get the full court for 4 minutes if they did not play the previous match
- If both teams played the match immediately prior to their current match, there will be 2 minutes of shared court warm-up time and then the match begins

Example:

Match 1: 2-4-4

Match 2: 2-4 (4 only for team who was off Match 1)

Match 3: 2-4 (4 only for team who was off Match 2)

Playoffs

- Full 2-4-4 warmup for each match

Weather

The tournament will be held through snow, cold, and rain so plan your travel accordingly as matches will begin on time each day. If a team is late, they run the risk of forfeiting sets, or the entire match, as determined by USAV rules.

WI-FI

Big Lake High School Network = STUDENT / Password = cloud+2013

Big Lake Middle School Same as BLHS

Liberty Elementary Same as BLHS

Hope Fieldhouse Network = Hope Fieldhouse Guest / Fieldhouse1

Questions

If you have any questions, problems or concerns please call (952) 831-9150, email us at NorthCountryRegion@gmail.com or visit our website at www.ncrusav.org

