

SAFETY | SERVICE | EDUCATION | OPPORTUNITY | GROWTH

court connection

NorthCountry

REGION VOLLEYBALL



AVCA – THIRTY UNDER 30



Katie Fisette **Miranda Bowman**

The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) recently shared their coaches who earned Thirty Under 30 recognition in the following categories: high school, club, and college. [FULL STORY HERE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

OUTDOOR EVENTS

Starting May 23–24, 2026

The Region will be hosting a handful of outdoor events this summer. Like in year's past, NCR will host junior level beach qualifier events. **NEW** in 2026 is **GRASS VOLLEYBALL**. Learn more on the Outdoor Events on the Region's website.

ALL STAR TRYOUTS

Girls & Boys - March 27, 2026
Moorhead, MN

Girls & Boys - April 24, 2026
Sioux Falls, SD

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Professional Awards
Nominations Open **April 1** and
close **May 15**.

Junior Player Awards Open
April 15 and close **May 30**.



CLASS of 2026 NCR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION OPENS **MARCH 15**

NCR Board of Directors Creates Membership Scholarship Opportunities

North Country Region (NCR) of USA Volleyball (USAV) will award up to \$5,000 in scholarships to individuals who participated with a North Country Region-recognized club during the 2025–2026 club volleyball season. Eligible participation includes athletes, coaches, officials, and other club participants.

Thanks to the support of the North Country Region Board of Directors, the following scholarships will be awarded:

- Three \$1,000 scholarships to female participants
- Two \$1,000 scholarships to male participants

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Participated in a recognized North Country Region club during the 2025–2026 season
- Be a graduating high school senior
- Complete and submit the 2025–2026 NCR Scholarship Application
- Include a personal statement
- Submit the most recent transcript or report card
- Submit acceptance letter of the school planning to attend or are considering

Important Dates

- March 15, 2026 – Application opens
- May 1, 2026 – Application deadline
- June 1–10, 2026 – Scholarship recipients announced

[Access NCR Scholarship Page Here](#)

Message from the Region Commissioner

Miranda Bowman, MN Select, and Katie Fisette, Monti Club, have been nationally recognized by the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) in the Thirty under 30 club division. Recipients are recognized as rising club volleyball leaders that are committed to ensuring that the club space continues to fuel growth in youth volleyball and help increase participation numbers. I love seeing this!

Eligibility and Safety

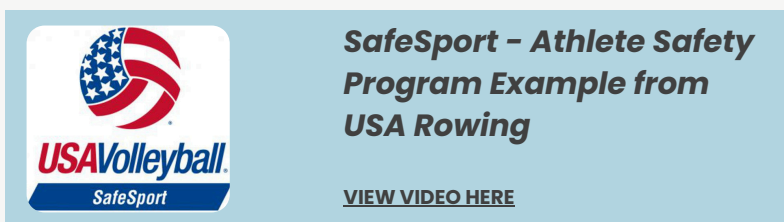
ARE ALL BACKGROUND SCREENS THE SAME?

Organizations who contract with a background screen company determine the offenses which disqualify a person from participation and/or membership. USA Volleyball will not accept a background screen that is completed outside of the organization. Such a policy better ensures that NCR-USA Volleyball adult members working with minor age athletes have been thoroughly vetted at a consistent, high standard across all of the USAV Regions.

HOW DO WE KNOW IF AN ADULT MEETS USAV SAFETY REQUIREMENTS?

NCR relies on the honesty of our NCR registered clubs and adult participants to uphold safety requirements. Not doing so, leads to USAV Code of Conduct violations and suspensions. Additionally, NCR instituted event wide roster checks at NCR hosted or sanctioned events. Adults can be successfully rostered only when meeting USAV eligibility and safety requirements completed.

[NCR - USAV Background Screen Info Here](#)

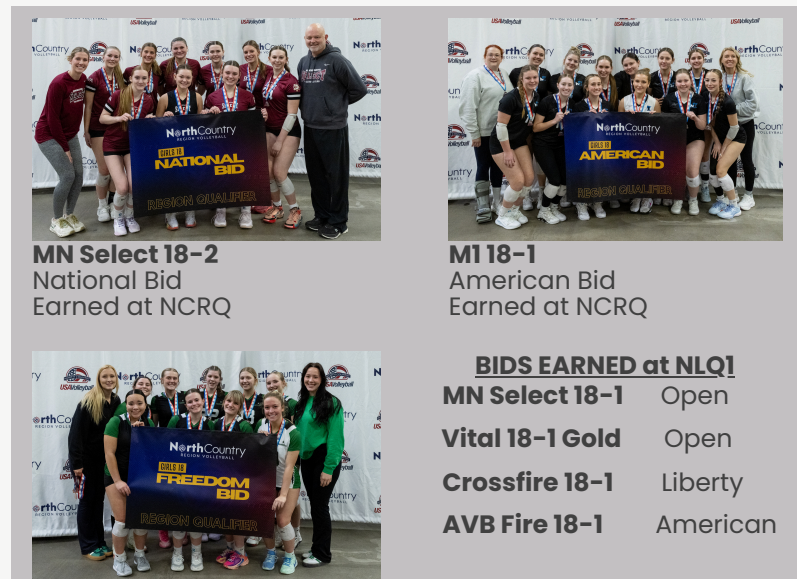


SafeSport - Athlete Safety Program Example from USA Rowing

[VIEW VIDEO HERE](#)

QUALIFIED TEAMS - 18 Division

Earning a bid to compete at USAV Junior National Championships is analogous to being selected to compete in an NCAA Tournament. It is special! Each Region is allotted a specific number of bids in each age division. Allotment is based on a Region's previous season membership numbers.



MN Select 18-2
National Bid
Earned at NCRQ

M1 18-1
American Bid
Earned at NCRQ

Hammerhead 18-1
Freedom Bid
Earned at NCRQ

BIDS EARNED at NLQI

MN Select 18-1	Open
Vital 18-1 Gold	Open
Crossfire 18-1	Liberty
AVB Fire 18-1	American

BOYS JUNIOR NATIONALS

MN Juniors 18-1	USA
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Officiating and USAV Rules of the Game

Congratulations New Provisionals



Cara Ward & Tara Robinson

Alex Flaten

Meghan Kennedy

Miranda Wyatt

Hannah Rich & Anja Jarchow

Anna Olsen

Anna Egge & Taylor Dick

Emma Berran

Cara Cyr

USAV Certified Officials Advancements

UPGRADES PRESENTED

Congratulations! We are proud to announce our latest referee upgrades. A huge round of applause to the officials listed below on their Regional or Provisional upgrades!

We missed a few faces for the photos above, but we're celebrating all of you!

REGIONAL REFEREE

Garrett, Emily
Grau, William
Howland, Chip
McAuliffe, April
Nusbaum, Ann
Sewell, Patrick
Stellmaker, Todd

PROVISIONAL SCORER

Scott Pakudaitis

PROVISIONAL REFEREE

Berran, Emma
Carlson, Julie
Cyr, Cara
Dick, Taylor
Egge, Ana
Erickson, Annika
Erickson, Synnove
Flaten, Alex
Florin, Randall
Gavic, Mark
Jaeb, Norah
Jarchow, Anja
Jenniges, Addeson
Kennedy, Meghan
Marvel, Maia
Olsen, Anna
Paplow, Eiese
Rich, Hannah
Robinson, Tara
Scalia, Todd
Ward, Kara
Weckman, Elizabeth
Wyatt, Miranda

Get Involved! Vision, Leader, Strategic Plan for Junior Volleyball Across the Region

Interested in assisting in making the decisions that steer North Country Region for the next four years? Then this role is for you to represent NCR's Junior Club community regionally and nationally! The primary purpose of the Junior Assembly Representative is to represent North Country Region at the Junior Assembly and to grow and support North Country Region. This includes developing strategies to recruit, retain, and advance all NCR registered clubs and foster community within NCR registered clubs, North Country Region Board of Directors, and NCR Staff. Call for Candidates and Election Process can be viewed [here](#).

