



## Tournament Guide & Policies

The 2023 Cloverleaf Invitational is a Florida Power Series and USAV event taking place over the weekend of March 11-12, 2023 at the **Broward County Convention Center (1950 Eisenhower Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316)**. All age divisions will compete across both days of the event. All participants within this event agree to abide the [USAV Code of Conduct](#).

### Team Check In:

- We will be utilizing AES Online Team Check-In for this event.
- ALL Teams must check their teams online.
- **Online Team Check-in opens Monday March 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM (EST) and closes on Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM (EST).**
- Any club/team that is not checked in prior to the deadline may be dropped from the event.
- Club Directors will be responsible for checking in on AES and are the only people that can check teams in online.
- See Check-In Procedures on the next page ...

- Once logged into AES:
  - Locate your teams attending 2023 Cloverleaf Invitational
  - Click the "CHECK-IN" button
  - A pop-up window will appear with the team information, edit roster button, and a place to enter your name and contact number
  - Click on the link that says "Click here to verify and save your roster"
  - To complete the online check-in, you will need to type your name and phone number in to “sign” the roster like you would if checking in onsite
  - Once the roster is verified and “signed,” click submit
  - **Please remember that all rostered personnel including coaches and players must have eligible USAV memberships for the 2022-23 season and all coaches must have successfully completed and passed USAV Safe sport & Background Checks.**

Repeat the above steps until ALL ACCEPTED TEAMS ARE CHECKED INTO THE EVENT  
 \*\*Reminder that a team can only be checked in ONCE

After each team is checked in, a notification email will be sent to the club director.

**Rosters:**

- **Roster deadline is Thursday, 3/9/23 at 8:00 PM ET**
- All rosters will be subject to 4 primary coaches and a maximum of 15 athletes per team.
  - *\*\*Please note that you can adjust your rosters after they have been entered (until Friday 3/10/23) but, all initial submissions must be in by Thursday, 3/9/23.*
  - *\*\*ALL Roster changes must be made prior to a team’s first match on Day 1 of the event.*

### **Credential Pick-Up:**

All credentials are available for pickup on Friday March 10<sup>th</sup> in the lobby of the Convention Center from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM.

Credentials can also be picked up in the lobby of the Convention Center on Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 before the morning wave and afternoon wave.

COACHES must wear & show their credentials to enter the venue and during the event at all times.

*\*\*NOTE: Coaches listed on multiple rosters will only receive ONE Wristband for the event. Chaperones DO NOT receive credentials.*

### **Admissions & Entrances:**

Doors open each day:

- 7:00 AM for PLAYERS and COACHES
- 7:15 AM for all SPECTATORS

Coaches, Players, and Officials will have designated entrance areas in the lobby to help them get to their courts quickly prior to match play.

Coaches will need to show their wristbands and players will need their bag tags to enter the event each day.

If players do not have their bag tag credentials, they will be allowed through to avoid gathering in the lobby and hallways waiting for their bag tags only if they are wearing their jerseys or team warm-ups in order to be easily identified as an athlete and enter the building.

Coaches will need wristbands & bag tag credentials to enter.

## **SPECTATOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION:**

- **Pre-Sale Tickets are available!** Here's where your families can purchase tickets: <https://3step.ticketspice.com/2023-cloverleaf-invitational>
  - All spectators will be required to present a QR code that will be scanned upon entry.
  - Once tickets are scanned, spectators will receive a wristband that must be worn throughout the day/weekend.
  - Security will be checking for wristbands upon entry.
  - Children under the age of 10 are free.
  - Please send any ticket refund requests to [info@topcourtevents.com](mailto:info@topcourtevents.com).
    - *\*Tickets that have been scanned onsite are not eligible for refunds.*
  
- **Parking:**
  - The Convention Center charges \$15/day for parking.

**Spectator Code of Conduct:**

All spectators, coaches, and players by registering and purchasing admission for this event agree to abide by the USAV/FL Region [Spectator Code of Conduct](#).

**WARNING: Injury from flying objects incidental to the sport of volleyball may occur. Attend at your own risk. Please pay close attention to your surroundings and be alert at all times, especially during active play**

### **Tournament/Play Information:**

All matches will be either:

- Best of three (3) sets to 25 with a deciding set to 15 (no cap), OR
- Three (3) sets to 25 (no cap)
- Teams will not switch sides during match play.
  - At the coin toss, the team who wins the coin toss will have their choice of the following:
    - Serve
    - Receive
    - Playing Side

### **Work Team Guidelines:**

- Florida Region policy requires that these Junior Work Team Officials be trained before they participate in a match as part of the officiating crew. Here are the training requirements for the season. The work team consists of a minimum of six people. They are:
  - Second referee
  - Scorer
  - Assistant Scorer (Liberio tracker)
  - Flipper (Visual scoreboard operator)
  - Lines Judges (2)
- Each person who will function during the season as a second referee, scorer, assistant scorer, or line judge must have completed the online training for each function that they will be performing during the season. It is also required that one of the team members must be a rostered adult performing one of the functions at the score table.
- For 11U to 14U divisions: a rostered adult must be the R2.
- For 15U to 18U divisions, athletes may be the R2.
- A first official (R1) will be provided for each match.
- **\*\*NOTE - On Championship Day: Gold Bracket finals in the 15 –18Open division only, a certified official will be provided/assigned as second official (R2)**
- **DEFAULT AND INCOMPLETE TEAM:**
  - Sanctions: (FYI...not individual sanctions; team sanctions only)
    - Delay warning
    - Delay penalty
    - Match forfeit
- If a team refuses to play after being summoned to do so, it is declared in

default and forfeits the match with the result 0-3 for the match and 0-25 for each set.

- Matches that are two sets out of three will have a match result of 0-2 or 1-2 depending on when the default occurs. Max of 3 members from the work can be at the scorer table. No additional athletes from the work team are permitted to sit at the score table with assigned positions. No cell phones are allowed at the score tables - no exceptions.

Please pay attention to pool description on [AES \(Schedule here\)](#) for clarification within each pool/division.

Formats are subject to change at any time due to team drops.

The schedule will be live on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 by 8:00 PM.

Please also pay special attention to your pool/bracket to ensure an officiating assignment is not missed.

**\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE\*\***

Work teams that have just finished playing and are scheduled to work the next match on their court should check in with the referee or the tournament desk before leaving the court to get water, food, etc. so the referee knows they will be ready to go on time!



**Late to Match OR Work Assignment Penalties:**

Playing team late to their match:

Any playing team late to their match will be penalized one point per minute they are late, after the match start time (per the flow of the court that day) NOT the 'scheduled match time'.

Work team late to their match:

**\*Work team must be complete before warmups are over\***

Any scheduled work team that is late to their assignment will be docked one point per minute they are late, after the match start time (per the flow of the court that day). The penalized points will be applied to the first set of their next scheduled game in the tournament.

**\*\*Important Note\*\***

'Match start time' is NOT the same as 'scheduled start time.'

'Scheduled start times' indicate when a match SHOULD start, per the schedule released by the tournament. The 'scheduled start time' does not take into account any factors throughout the day that may cause courts to run ahead, or behind. (ex: 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, etc.)

'Match start times' indicate when the match WILL start, per the flow of the court that day. The 'match start time' takes into account any factors throughout the day that may cause courts to run ahead or behind. (ex: 9:15 AM, 10:30 AM, 11:45 AM, etc.)

### **Abandoned Work Assignment Penalties:**

Teams are permitted to find a replacement work team to cover their assignment if they are unable to work.

If a replacement work team has been found, the coach from the scheduled work team and the coach from the replacement work team, must let the tournament director know IN PERSON and get Tournament Director approval before the originally scheduled team is released from their assignment.

If a work team abandons their responsibility for a scheduled work assignment entirely, the club will be fined \$250 for each team that abandons their assignment, as well as a Club Director fine of \$500.

**\*\*Teams that are playing OR working after challenge or crossover matches\*\***

Coaches and teams must be aware that their next assignment will populate in the AES schedule shortly after the deciding match concludes. Teams will have 5 minutes to report to their next court after the assignment has been posted.

Coaches must continue to check for their next assignment and should direct their team not to leave the court area while waiting for results.

### **Warm-Up Protocols:**

For the first match of the day, the warm-up protocol will be 5-4-4 (minutes).

For all other matches in the day, the warm-up protocol will be 2-4-4 (minutes).

## **Match Play & Tie Breakers:**

In the case of tie there will be NO PLAY-OFFS. The tiebreaker formula will go as follows:

- TWO-WAY TIES:
  - The team that won the pool play match between the two tied teams (head-to-head) wins the tie.
  
- THREE-WAY TIES:
  - In the case of three teams tied in match percentage, teams will be ranked based on set percentage from highest to lowest. Highest coming out first in the pool, lowest coming out last.
  - If three or more teams are still tied in match percentage and set percentage, the tie will be broken by point percentage and the teams ranked accordingly from highest to lowest. Highest coming out first in the pool, last coming out lowest.
  - If two teams remain tied in match percentage, set percentage, and point percentage the tie will be broken based on the head-to-head result of the two remaining teams.

\*See USAV tie-breaker rules here: <https://usavolleyball.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Tie-Breaker-Flow-Chart-NEW-FINAL.pdf>

## **Libero Rules**

Up to two Liberos may be designated on the line-up sheet at the start of the match. If zero or one Libero is designated on the line-up sheet, the coach may select a different Libero for subsequent sets but may not have two Liberos. If two Liberos are designated on the line-up sheet for Set 1, those are the only two Liberos who may play for that team for the match.

### **TEAMS WITH ONE LIBERO-**

If this Libero becomes unable to play: The coach or captain may re-designate, as Libero, any other player (replacement player excepted) not on the court at the moment of the re-designation.

### **Team with two Liberos-**

Where a team has registered on the score sheet two Liberos, but one becomes unable to play the team has the right to play with only one Libero. No re-designation will be allowed, however, unless the remaining Libero is unable to continue playing for the match.

## **Step-in for serving:**

### **11 Open Division Only**

As we expand our sport to include younger age groups, we must make appropriate accommodations for their physical limitations. We are now routinely including divisions for 11-year-olds and seeing kids as young as 8 playing on those courts and for some events, we even have separate 10s divisions.

To accommodate the youngest, we need to have some sort of rule to cater to their serving limitations, and we need to have some degree of consistency to our enforcement. At some events, we may have actual step-in lines drawn on the courts. However, it can be complicated to ensure availability of those lines in all cases.

So, if you are working matches in a 11s age group (not 11s playing up into 12s) without formal lines on the court, please apply the following:

1. Since we have no reasonable way to verify birthdates in the middle of a match, we will trust the integrity of each coach to define which players need the leniency of this rule. In general, we expect actual 11-year-olds to serve completely behind the end line, and coaches should direct them accordingly.
2. If there is no line to indicate limit, younger servers using the “Step-In Exception” may move approximately two meters into the playing court prior to striking the ball.
3. Since the kids may lack a clear understanding of this rule and may have some fundamental coordination problems in applying its specifics, we will be reasonably lenient for first time offenders. Please encourage the coach to correct the problem.
4. Repeat violations should be handled as a normal foot fault.
5. Any server who scores three consecutive points, while serving in a single rotation, sacrifices the privilege to step in for the remainder of that rotation. Upon rotating back into the serving position, server may again serve three points using step-in.

**Awards:**

Awards will be given to first and second place finishers in Gold Brackets and first place finishers of Silver and Bronze Brackets/ Pools. Teams will be provided an award slip after the conclusion of the final match in their given bracket/pool by their officials to then take to the awards area outlined on the slip. If you think your teams should receive an award slip after a match, please double check with the official and then the tournament desk.

**Officials:**

A first official (R1) will be provided for each match.

**\*\*NOTE - On Championship Day: Gold Bracket finals in the 15 – 18 Open division only will also provide a paid second official (R2).**

### **Protests:**

The rostered head coach along with the designated court captain are the only two individuals that may protest. If anyone other than the rostered head coach and/or the designated court captain protests, there will be a penalty, the protest will be dismissed, and play will resume.

Protests may ONLY be made for rule violations, not judgment calls (i.e. a ball handling error). **\*Reminder that uniforms are not protest-able and will be immediately dismissed\***

Refusal to play, at any time, will result in the head coach receiving a yellow card, a red card, then a forfeit.

**Below is the step-by-step process to protesting that ALL PROTESTS MUST FOLLOW. If any part of this process is missed or not followed, the protest will be dismissed, and play will restart.**

- 1) Coach calls court captain to their bench to tell their court captain what they want to protest and sends the court captain to the head referee stand.
- 2) If the protest request is legitimate, the head referee will send players who are on the court to their benches, dismount the referee stand, and call the Chief Referee to the court.
- 3) The Chief Referee of the event, along with the Event Protest Committee, will go to the court to consult with the court referee, and the head coach and court captain of the protesting team ONLY and will determine the outcome.

All protests will be handled by the Protest Committee and their decision is binding.

A Protest Committee will consist of any two of the following:

- Tournament Director, Assistant Tournament Director, Site Director, Head Official, Highest rated available official or a non-involved Club Director

If a team refuses to play after being summoned to do so, it is declared in default and forfeits the match with the result 0-3 for the match and 0-25 for each set.

**A FORFEIT OF SETS OR MATCHES CAN OCCUR FOR REASONS SUCH AS:**

Team declared in default for:

- Refusal to play
- Not appearing on playing court on time.
- Team declared INCOMPLETE for the set or match.
- Team does not have six players to begin a match.



**Facility Rules:**

Athletes are not permitted to impede onto another playing court during a rally. The ball will be deemed out of play if this occurs. If an athlete makes contact with the concrete surface in the surrounding playing area, officials will determine that ball to be out of play.

Athletes must make contact with the ball while still on or touching the playing surface.

Due to incidents in previous years, there will be a no tolerance policy for misbehavior by players/teams and spectators in the venues:

- Ball Handling is NOT allowed outside of the playing facilities. Teams may warm on empty courts inside the facility. No ball handling will be allowed in the lobby of the convention center.
- Coolers and outside food and drink are NOT ALLOWED in ANY of the playing facilities but may be left in the lobby of the convention center.
- Only water and sports drinks may be brought inside the facility.
- NO outside chairs allowed; seating will be provided at all courts.

Violation of these policies or any other general misbehaviors may result in immediate dismissal from the facility for the remainder of the day/tournament!

**Athletic Trainers/EMS:**

Athletics trainers and EMS will be present onsite. All athletes must complete the [USAV FL Region Medical Consent Form](#) prior to receiving treatment from any ATCs. Athletic trainers will be available for preventative taping, injury response and treatment, and post-play treatment (ice/wrapping).

It is encouraged that athletes bring their own athletic tape.

