



Twelve Triangle teams aged 13-17 spent Easter weekend on the road seeking high level national competition and pursuing bids to USA Volleyball Girls' Junior National Championships. Six teams headed to the Windy City Qualifier in Chicago; another six attended the Northeast Qualifier in Philadelphia.

The competition was fierce in both cities and Triangle teams posted some exceptional results which included two qualifications and seven top ten finishes.

At both events teams participated in one of three competitive divisions: Open USA, or American

### WINDY CITY QUALIFIER | Chicago

After exciting day 1 pools, five teams found themselves in the top ½ of the field and vying for a place in the Gold bracket of their respective division. Of the six teams attending it was 14 White who pushed through their field on day 2 to earn a berth in the Gold bracket and ultimately, a top ten finish.

The Windy City records and results are,

- 13 Black, 2-6, T11/18 [Open]
- 14 Black, 1-4, T11/23 [Open]
- 14 Blue, 3-5, 14/26 [USA]
- 14 White, 5-2, **T9/64** [American]
- 15 Blue, 2-5, T23/32 [USA]
- 15 White, 5-3, T23/80 [American]

### NORTHEAST QUALIFIER | Philadelphia

The City of Brotherly Love shined favorably on Triangle with all six teams earning top ten finishes. Two teams earned qualifying bids to USAV Nationals; 17 Black in the Open division with a T5 finish and 16 Blue in the USA division with a second-place finish. Also notable was the second-place finish by 17 White in the American division and the top ten finishes by 16 Black, 16 White, and 17 Blue.

The qualification of 17 Black and 16 Blue raises Triangle's 2017 qualification total to three (3); leading the way among North Carolina clubs in qualification through the national qualifier event process. Only one other Carolina Region team, CHAVC 14 National, has earned a bid through competition in the national qualifier circuit.

The qualification of 16 Blue is the first achieved by a 16 Blue team in Triangle's history. The bid was earned when 16 Blue won their semi-final match against Maverick 16 Elite [OH] in two dramatic sets 28-26, 25-18. The win was achieved despite the injury sidelining middle blocker, Brooke Hanshumaker.

For 17 Black the field was fierce and included previously qualified A5 Mizuno 17-1 Jing, OT 17 S. Rox Red, and Rockwood Thunder 17 Mizuno. After a second-place finish in their day 1 pool, 17 Black faced a tough cross pool match against Team VB Rags 17N Carly [NJ]. In a dramatic third set, 17 Black grabbed the win 23-25, 25-14, 23-21 allowing them to keep their hopes alive for Gold pool placement for day 3. In their day 2 pool 17 Black finished 2-1 with a tough win in three sets over NC rival CJV [25-21, 19-25, 17-15] securing placement in a final day Gold pool. To qualify 17 Black needed one good win in a pool that featured two of the previously qualified powerhouses [A5 and Rockwood Thunder]. They got the win and the bid by beating Michigan Elite [25-23, 25-15].

The NEQ records and results are,

- 16 Black, 7-2, **7th/24** [Open]
- 16 Blue, 9-1, **2nd/79** [USA] **QUALIFIED**
- 16 White, 6-2, **T9/125** [American]
- 17 Black, 5-4, **T5/30** [Open] **QUALIFIED**
- 17 Blue, 5-2, **T9/71** [USA]
- 17 White, 9-2, **2nd/79** [American]