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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### *USA Volleyball Back in Abilene*

ABILENE, TX – Volleyball teams from around the state will begin play at 8 a.m. Saturday at Abilene Christian High School, Clack, Craig and Wylie Junior High. The finals will be played at McMurry University, Wylie Junior High and Abilene Christian High on Sunday. The USA Volleyball sanctioned tournament will host 52 teams up from 41 last year. This is the third year for Abilene to host the tournament.

Regina Sanders and John Linne are the tournament directors and are both USA Volleyball National Officials. The tournament is sponsored by West Texas Heat, one of Abilene's USAV clubs, directed by Sabrina Bingham, women's volleyball coach at HSU. The Convention & Visitors Bureau Sports Alliance attributes this huge increase to a well-run tournament last year and the directors' involvement in the USA volleyball community.

Debi Schultz, sports sales director for the Convention & Visitors Bureau expects approximately 780 participants and 500 fans to bring an influx in economic impact of over \$160,000 and use over 300 hotel room nights during the tournament. Schultz says, "Sanders is a dream tournament planner. She knows the game, what the teams want and she gives it to them. Linne, a former player and longtime referee, directs the actual tournament play to assure all runs smoothly. After last year's success, word has spread in the volleyball community and more teams chose to participate. All the credit goes to Sanders and Linne for the significant increase this year."

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