



## Club 101

### What is Club Volleyball?

Club Volleyball is a travel sport where team placement is determined by process of tryouts. During tryouts, groups of volleyball athletes are evaluated to determine skill level, coachability, teamwork and sportsmanship and drive to compete, among other things. Typically, there are multiple team levels for each age group in a club sport. The teams are grouped based on the abilities that they show at tryouts. If offered a spot on a club volleyball team, you will be playing with like-minded athletes from various school districts who share similar skills and goals. Club Volleyball teams compete in the United States Volleyball Association (USAV) and Amateur Athletic Association (AAU) competition events. These associations exist for the purpose of developing an athlete's skills and volleyball IQ, potentially to gain exposure to collegiate coaches to open the door for a college volleyball career. The travel schedule associated with these events will vary by the team's skill level.

### What are the benefits of playing club volleyball?

- To improve a player's skill level for their local school volleyball team
- To diversify a player's skills for various volleyball positions
- To expand social skills for our athletes
- To stay active!
- To explore opportunities and gain exposure to college volleyball coaches for those athletes interested in continuing onto a college volleyball career.

### What can I expect at tryouts?

Players will be evaluated over two days of tryout sessions. During these sessions, coaches are evaluated for skill execution, work ethic, competitive fervor, willingness to be coachable and attitude.

Players will need to submit paperwork. This will include a tryout fee, personal information and a medical release form. Following the completion of these steps, they will receive a tryout number.

At tryouts, players are separated by age group. They will then perform volleyball skill drills, as well as compete in game play drills. Coaches will evaluate each player and decisions to offer a spot on a team will be determined. If it is decided to offer a player a spot on a team, they will receive an official offer letter. Official offer letters will be sent out via email and will include the team name, practice times, deposit amount and a link to accept the spot, among other items. Once an offer letter is received, players will have 48 hours to accept or decline the offer.

#### **USAV:**

U15-U18: Offer letters can be expected to be received on the Wednesday after tryouts @ 7:00pm

U12-U14: Offer letters can be expected to be received on the Wednesday after tryouts @ 7:00pm



### **What should I expect regarding a tournament schedule?**

**Single day tournaments** will be one day events that typically start in the morning and run all day. Teams will compete to make playoffs. Not all teams will make playoffs.

**Multi-day tournaments** will be multi-day events. These tournaments are broken up into waves. There are typically two waves, AM & PM. AM waves have a general time frame of 8:00am-2:00pm. PM waves have a general time frame of 3:00pm-8:00pm. Playoffs are divided up into brackets – gold, silver, bronze, etc. ALL teams make playoffs during multi-day events.

There are typically extra fees associated with tournaments, such as entry fees and parking fees. These fees can vary based on venue. The venues typically offer concessions and many times do not allow outside food to be brought in.

Travel is likely necessary and travel schedules will vary by team level. Some of the travel tournaments are Stay to Play events. In these cases, teams are required to stay at pre-determined hotels in order to play in the event. There are consequences for not adhering to these rules, which could include disqualification from an event.

### **What volleyball club is best for me?**

When choosing a club, it is important to consider which club best meets the goals and skill growth opportunities that the athlete desires.

Consider answering the following questions and comparing it to the club options that you have:

- What is my goal for playing club? Is it to get better for my high school team? To get recruiting exposure? To be with friends? All the above?
- Does the club I am considering align with my goals?
- Does the tournament schedule align with my goals?
- Does the tournament schedule work for my family?
- Will the coaching staff at my age group help me achieve my goals?
- If you have more than one offer, which offer will provide me the best opportunity to achieve my goals?

### **What are the different volleyball organizations?**

**USAV** – United States Volleyball Association is the National Governing Body for all 3 organizations. USAV makes the rules for the game and owns rights to the Olympic teams. All club players will be required to purchase a USAV membership.

**AAU** – Amateur Athletic Association follows game rules formed by USAV. All club players will be required to purchase a USAV membership.

**JVA** – Junior Volleyball Association accepts both USAV and AAU members. There is no separate JVA membership required.