



Researching a Volleyball Club

Questions to ask yourself and prospective clubs -

Philosophy

- Know what YOUR philosophy is . . . what do you want from a club during this season?
- Are you determined to attend Nationals? Persistent for a club to help you get a scholarship? Are you looking to get better for high school? Are you wanting to play with your friends on a team? You need to know what you are looking for.
- Ask the Club what THEIR philosophy is. Playing time, travel team, non-travel teams

Cost

- How much do tryouts cost? Do I have to pay for each tryout or does one fee cover all tryout sessions?
- How much is due up front once I commit to the club?
- How is it paid - monthly payments, 1 or 2 installments?
- Are travel expenses included in the payments or are they separate?
- Are Nationals or Post-season included? If not, when is that due? Is that refundable if the team does not make it to Post-Season play?
- What if my son/daughter gets hurt during the season?
- Is Fundraising available to offset the cost?
- What player equipment is covered in the cost? shoes? kneepads? socks? jerseys? warm ups? bags?

Members on the team

- How many players are kept on the team?
- What is the club's philosophy on guaranteed playing time??
- When will the final roster for each team be determined?

Level of Commitment

- Many players are active in other sports or activities. Try to have a feel for what your schedule might be like in your other activities so you will know if there are any or many conflicts. Always check with the club to see what is tolerated.
- Very Cooperative - they will work around anything and everything
- Cooperative within reason - there are a few instances that the club may excuse your for being late or absent.
- Full Commitment - some clubs expect some or all of their teams to put club volleyball first. They expect you at every practice and every tournament.

Practices

- How many practices per week? Will this number change preceding a tournament?
- How long is each practice?
- Where are the practices located?



Tournaments

- How many tournaments are played in each month?
- How many are in-state tournaments?
- How many are out-of-state tournaments?

Travel

- How many "travel" tournaments will the team be attending? Travel most likely means out of state or multi-day tournaments in another part of the state where overnight stay is required
- How are travel arrangements handled?
- Does the club offer parent travel?

Coaches

- How many coaches are staffed per team?
- What are their qualifications?

Communications

- How does the club communicate with the Parents/Members? Do they have a web site? Monthly meetings? Newsletters? Handbook?
- What is the chain of command should my child have an issue? Many clubs want the child to talk to the coach before the parent gets involved. This develops the maturity of the child in dealing with their coaches or teachers.

Other Perks

- Car Pooling?
- Club/Team outings throughout the year?
- Clinics/camps throughout the year?
- College Recruiting help?
- Have their own facility?

Committing to a Club

CHRVA and USA Volleyball consider a commitment to a club to be for the entire season. Please do your homework before committing to a club.