

## Game Plan For Starting A High School Men's Volleyball Team

1. **Gauge interest:** There are many ways to do this, but it's very important to have evidence of interest when you approach your Booster Club or Athletic Director to start a new sport. You can do this by having an interest meeting, sign-up sheets at Open Houses, make signs for the hallways and have the guys you know that want to play talk up the season. Be sure to gather email addresses so you can communicate with the players that are interested.
2. **Get permission:** Speak to your Athletic Director about creating a team. Find out what you need to do to satisfy your school's requirements for beginning a new sport/team.
3. **Find a sponsor** – Once approved by the A.D., you'll likely need a sponsor. This can be a parent or teacher (depending on your school). Someone that can organize the team and communicate with the AD/Booster Club regarding the season.
4. **Find a coach** - this can be tricky due to lack of payment by the school, but there is often a nice team gift from parent donations that may entice someone to coach. Ideally, you'll find someone that's passionate about the sport and excited about growing a program from scratch. You can reach out to the girl's HS volleyball coach, club teams in the area, colleges and college players in your area and parents to try and find someone that is available. If the team sponsor/coach has limited knowledge of how to run a practice, you can access practice plans online. If your sponsor/coach isn't comfortable teaching skills, you could ask one of the HS or MS girls' coaches to help out a few times during the season and do a clinic for the guys during practice. If available, area club men's coaches have been willing to come to the school and do a clinic during practice times.
5. **Set team cost** - This varies in what the player dues will go to. They will be higher if they're covering uniforms, booster club admin fees and refs for home games. A normal season cost is \$200 per player and covers all of the aforementioned fees. Payment was made online through the Booster Club. Some schools did not have refs and the dues were \$60. They would have girls' varsity players ref. This made it feel less formal, but if cost is a barrier then this is a good solution. You could also consider a fundraiser to help offset some of the costs for the families.

6. **Plan the season** - Work with other coaches in the area to organize a schedule that made sense for everyone. Identify the schools in your area that are interested early. Possibly even start the summer before the school year begins. Some schools have different guidelines and may need to approve a new sport/club at the beginning of the school year. If teams are located close together you can have weeknight games similar to how your school's basketball team schedules. If the teams you will compete against are further away, then consider Saturday Round Robin play where lots of school come to one school and compete against each other.
7. **Have tryouts** – Create another sign-up sheet for tryouts, advertise everywhere you can: school announcements, signs for the hallways, school's booster club and social media sites and word of mouth. Have an interest meeting and hold 2 open gyms before tryouts to create interest. Tryouts are one day and last 2 hours. Keep as many guys as you can, because you never know which guys will really take to the sport. Once you make your team(s), notify your players and your school of the roster selections.
8. **Order uniforms & create a team store** – Most schools have a company that they work with for uniforms/gear. The process was very simple and easy. If your school doesn't have that, there are online stores where you can buy/design gear.
9. **Parent meeting** - Once your team is established have a parent meeting to discuss season and gather contact information. This info will be needed to coordinate transportation to games and other items that need to be communicated to parents. Make sure you ask for a parent volunteer to be team Mom(s) or Dad(s). This will make the sponsor/coaches life much easier. The team Mom/Dad(s) will organize events such as Senior night and end of season party.
10. **The season** – Once you've worked with other coaches to plan, the season is the fun part! If you're a club sport, varsity/state sanctioned sports will take priority over you for gym time. You'll need to work with your AD to schedule gym time for practices. Because of this, most teams do not have practice every day and that's normal. Typically, there is an end of season tournament. You can look at hosting at a local volleyball club facility or at a school that can put up enough nets. Space required depends on the number of teams in your league.

We hope this game plan was helpful. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. Contact us at [NCboysHSvolleyball@gmail.com](mailto:NCboysHSvolleyball@gmail.com) .