

VOLLEYBALL TRYOUTS

What To Look for When Evaluating Clubs That Have the Best Interest Of Athletes In Mind When Running Their Tryouts And Programs

All Volleyball Clubs are different. Each one will have a different governing structure, philosophy, purpose, and fees. Some clubs are large with multiple teams in every age group and some only have one or two teams. No matter which club you're researching to choose to affiliate with for your club volleyball experience, there are some general attributes to look for initially that will give you an idea of how they will treat your son or daughter. Here are some things to look for to evaluate if a volleyball club has the best interests of their athletes in mind.

Clubs that operate an Open and Fair Tryout Process DO:

- Schedule tryouts either in consultation with, or at minimum, after reviewing other area clubs' tryout schedules so age group tryouts do not overlap. Athletes should have the ability to tryout with multiple clubs to make an informed choice.
- Hold open tryouts where all spots on all teams are available. Athletes should know that when they attend a tryout, they have an equal shot at all spots on a team. If a club does choose to make pre-tryout offers, then they should announce at tryouts which spots are available and allow athletes to choose whether to participate in those tryouts or not.
- Hold fair tryouts with no positions or team structures promised to specific athletes (like running a 5-1 or 6-2 setter rotation without knowing whether that structure will work for the team personnel on the roster). Good coaches design their offense and defensive structures off their team personnel and do not try to fit their personnel to pre-conceived ideals.
- Allow time for athletes and families to attend multiple tryouts and make an informed choice for their club volleyball experience. Clubs that attempt to pressure, manipulate, and/or coerce a decision while still in the gym or within a short time frame are not acting in your best interest. Families should make sure they understand all commitment deadlines and the ramifications of committing early. Families may be able to get out of a commitment but may still need to pay club fees to the original club if they have signed contracts with that club.

Again, all Volleyball Clubs are different. They will all operate their tryouts differently, and each has their own priorities to accomplish with their tryouts. These principles are being communicated to families to help give them another perspective to consider when evaluating club opportunities. Families are the consumers in this relationship and will be the ones that ultimately choose which club they want to do business with. Families should reward those clubs that operate an open and fair tryout process.

NOTE: This document is intended to provide some general information that families may use to evaluate clubs during the tryout process. Clubs set their own tryout policies and procedures. Clubs that do not operate in the suggested manner are NOT operating in violation of any known published organizational policies. Families attend tryouts at their own risk and are responsible for holding clubs responsible for their own actions. Violations of these principles should not be reported to any volleyball governing bodies.