

Selecting a Club

Mission Statement/Purpose:

What is the goal of the club?

Is it “competitive,” “recreational” or “developmental?”

Costs/Fees for Participation:

- What is the projected fee?
- What does the fee cover? (Gym Costs, Coach Stipends, Club Dues, USAV Registration, Uniform Costs, Etc.)
- If the team travels to out of town tournaments (Qualifiers or other National level tournaments) - Who covers the costs of the coaches expenses, traveling costs, hotel rooms etc? • Will the athletes stay with their parents or with other members of the team? • How will they be supervised?
- Are there any other additional costs? (Additional tournaments, travel fees, clothing/merchandise etc.)
- Do fees have to be paid up front? Can they be paid in installments?

Practice Time:

- How many times per week? What is the length of the practice? What times are reserved for practice?
- Will my practice schedule change or will it remain the same throughout the season?
- What happens if I miss a practice-possibly due to participation in other sports? Sickness? Religious events?
- Are practices held during major holidays? -If so what days and times?
- When does the season start and end?
- When can I expect to start tournament play?

Tournaments:

- Will the team participate in local, regional or national level tournaments? How many tournaments?
- Will the team participate in “convention center” events or other 2 or 3 day events?
- What is the expectation in regards to hotel choices and travel?
- Will the team participate in Jr. National Qualifiers or other end of season tournaments (USAV sanctioned events in May/June)?

Other Important Questions to ask prior to committing to a club:

- How many players will be on the team? How many spots on the team have been filled?
- What is the club or teams’ policy on playing time? (Equal, mandatory, performance only, “play to win” etc.)
- Will players/and or parents be expected to participate in fundraisers?
- What are the expectations of the club in regards to:
 - A. Time commitment from the player
 - B. Can players participate in other sports?
- Who will be the coach of my team and what are their credentials/ and or experience?

Clubs that want you to sign up early and ask for deposits:

Some clubs will give you a very short time to decide whether to join them or not. Do not get pushed into signing an agreement that you are not comfortable with. Compare it to buying a car: the dealer will tell you that you have to decide now, because the car you are looking at may be gone by tomorrow. You will need to make a decision to accept or hold off on it and check out other options.

Clubs that are very pushy about signing early agreements may not be a good situation for your son or

daughter. If they apply a lot of pressure now, think about how they may treat you during the season!

Make sure you read all details before you sign any agreement. It is probably wise to make sure you have copies of any agreements for your own use. Some clubs will also ask for a deposit with the agreements. We do not recommend you pay a deposit, especially early on, but if that is what the club requires, you may have to make a choice. Anticipate that you will lose this deposit if you change your mind and want to join a different club.

Agreements between players and clubs:

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is not a party to any of the agreements between players and clubs. We do not determine the fee structure of the clubs. We do not tell players which clubs to join. We do not tell clubs what they have to offer and at what cost. We do not collect fees for the clubs. We do not interfere if players decide to quit and want a refund.

Harassment Policy:

This policy is required to be on all USAV club websites.

"We are a club member of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball. As a player you might stop any unwanted contact from a club representative simply by asking (either verbally or in writing) that all contact cease. Any player believing a club representative of any Florida Region Volleyball Club has been intimidating, harassing or acted inappropriately in any matter of contact or recruiting should contact the Florida Region office at(352) 742 0080."