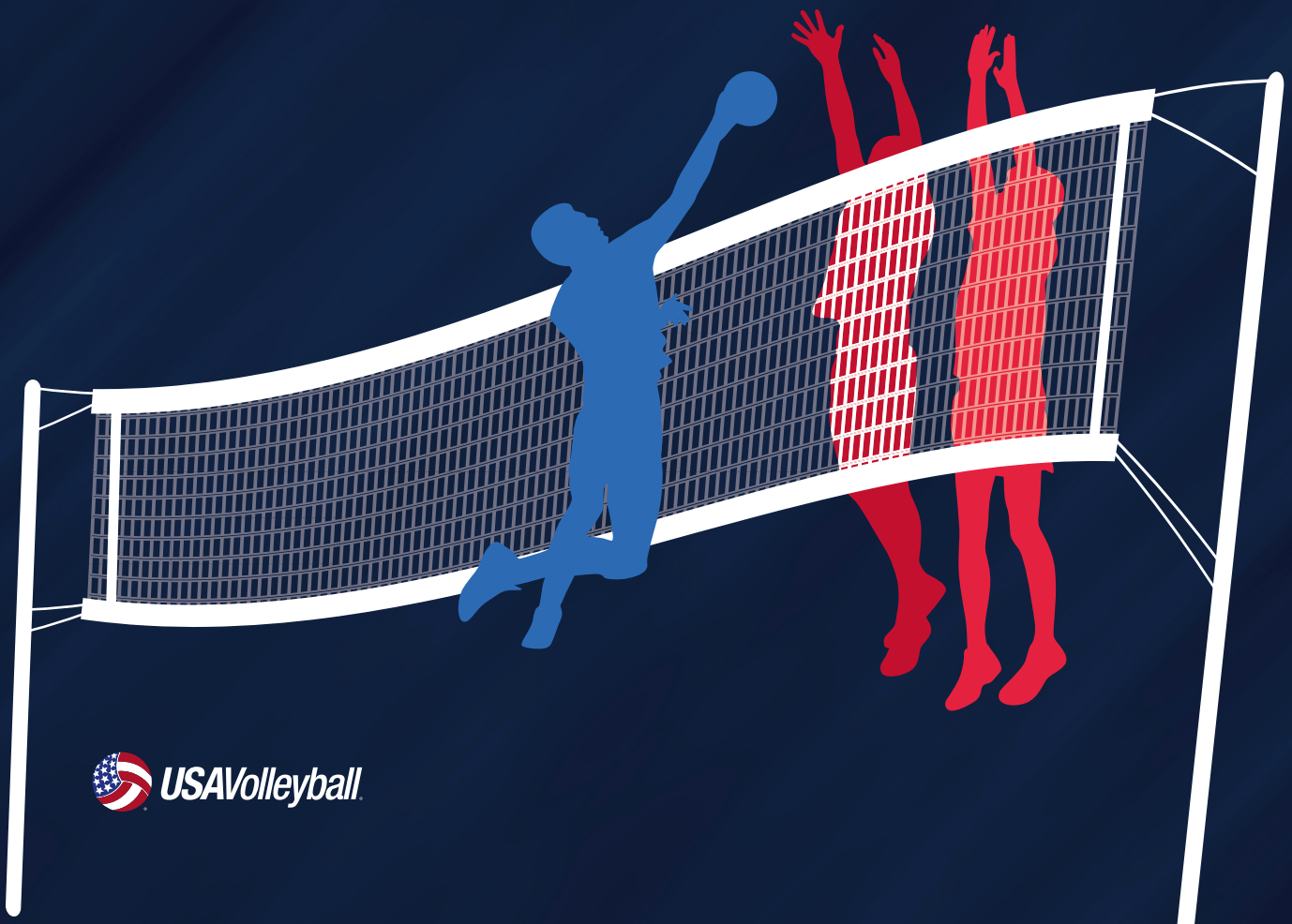




FAQS

OPEN COURT





BEFORE

WHAT IS GOLD MAP?

Gold Map is a NBC/USOC program that will be promoted during the Olympic Games inviting kids to try Olympic sports. USA Volleyball will direct all interested parties to RVA contact information.

The objective is to connect Olympic viewers with local grassroots programs taking advantage of “a defining moment of inspiration.”

The NBC promo asks: “Do you want to get started in an Olympic sports program? Are you ready to explore your limits? Feel the joy of competition? Or do you just want to get active and have fun? Start your journey today.”

WHAT IS OPEN COURT?

Open Court is a USA Volleyball promotion developed to take advantage of the Olympic momentum from our successful athletes and the Gold Map program.

While Gold Map is a ‘find a place to play’ initiative, Open Court is a one-day ‘try volleyball for free’ promotion aimed to drive potential players to grassroots programs and facilities. The objective is to grow the game as a sport development and membership growth initiative for the grassroots.

It is an optional program. USAV will provide day-of-event planning tools and marketing resources.

WHY SHOULD WE DO THIS?

This is a first-time program for USA Volleyball, but other National Governing Bodies have successfully turned Olympic-based growth programs like Open Court into an annual event that drives new athletes to the sport. USA Hockey conducts two ‘TryHockeyForFree.com’ events a year, attracting thousands of kids to the rinks with incredible retention rates over the years.

WHO IS OUR AUDIENCE?

The audience per the NBC Gold Map promos are novices ... young people who want to try the sport. But each RVA can customize its marketing to boys, girls, beach, indoor, etc.

WHO DO WE CONTACT AT USA VOLLEYBALL?

Call | 719.228.6800

- John Kessel | Day-of-Event logistics
- Charlie Snyder | Event marketing
- Tori Hoke | Registration and insurance

IS THERE AN AGE MINIMUM, MAXIMUM?

Each RVA can determine what minimum and maximum ages it would like to set.

HOW IS THE INSURANCE WAIVER BEING HANDLED?

USA Volleyball will provide one-day memberships for participants, which will cover liability insurance.

The one-day membership for this purpose is free to participants and no fees will be collected from the Regions to USAV. A note can be added to the fee report submitted in September (for the August memberships) to indicate how many free Open Court one-day memberships were included in the fee report, and the amount of fees to USA Volleyball will be reduced by that amount. For the insurance to apply, a waiver must be collected and the number of participants must be tracked.

HOW WILL WE RECEIVE INFO SUCH AS NAME, AGE, ADDRESS, CONTACTS, ETC.?

RVA's will collect all demographic and contact information through the event registration on WebPoint.

HOW DO I SET UP AN EVENT IN WEBPOINT?

Webpoint membership and/or event registration may be used. A signed waiver must be collected for each participant. If using Webpoint, the waiver can be signed and collected electronically. If not using Webpoint, or in addition to Webpoint registration, paper forms may be used to collect the signed waiver. The number of participants must be tracked and submitted to USA Volleyball for insurance purposes. USA Volleyball will provide additional information regarding the membership option and clinic registration. The clinic would be similar to a Region officials' clinic.

IF THEY REGISTER ON WEBPOINT, SHOULD WE CREATE AN “OPEN HOUSE CLUB” TO CHOOSE?

That is certainly an option for the Regions who want to provide a One-Day Membership option for Open Court participation and could help on the administration side of things. It is up to the preference of the Region.

WHAT IF WE AREN'T ON WEBPOINT?

Use whatever you usually use for event registration in your Region, with paper forms to collect the signed waiver and track the number of participants.

WHEN SHOULD ONLINE REGISTRATIONS END?

USA Volleyball recommends that online registrations should close on Aug. 22, 2016. However, walk-ups the day of should be accepted.



BEFORE

CAN WE DO WALK-UP REGISTRATION?

Yes, you can do a day-of paper registration as long as the waiver is signed. Most importantly, whether participants pre-register or are handled as walk-ups, the waiver must be signed and the number of participants must be tracked.

HOW DO WE SET UP AN OPEN COURT WEBPAGE?

You would set up the page like any other page on your site with links and information about the locations hosting Open Court in your region. USA Volleyball will provide graphics to assist.

HOW DO I PROMOTE THIS EVENT?

USA Volleyball will provide a variety of marketing resources, including a sample marketing timeline for spreading the word as well as downloadable marketing collateral (downloadable postcards, fliers, posters, web banners, Facebook covers, etc.).

CAN WE AWARD HOST CLUBS/FACILITIES?

It is completely up to the individual RVA to decide how they will select a host location and can certainly award the host for doing so. Clubs could combine at one facility, local high schools or YMCA's and even parks or beaches are examples for hosts.

WHAT DAY IS THE EVENT AND WHY THAT DAY?

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2016. It is the Saturday after the Rio Closing Ceremony, when interest will be at its peak. This date is flexible and each RVA/host may choose a date that works best for them. We do recommend holding the event a close to the 27th as possible in order to take advantage of the Olympic hype.

HOW MANY LOCATIONS ARE EXPECTED PER RVA?

This is our first year with this program. We want as many enthusiastic hosts as possible. We would hope that each RVA will participate, but it is optional. We know that USA Hockey started their high-performing program with just one club. We expect to start small and grow.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED DAY-OF-EVENT PLAN?

We do. USAV's Sport Development department has drawn up sample day-of plans for one to three courts with stations and drills.

WHAT ARE SUGGESTED HOURS?

We suggest that you keep the hours fairly tight, like 10a to noon or noon to 2p, or maybe 10a – 2p, because you can keep the courts busy with less down time, but it's really up to each RVA.

The event is billed as an 'open house' style event, so participants could arrive at the beginning, middle or end. If you plan an organized teaching section of the day, you would want to include a more specific schedule in your promotional materials.

HOW TO MAKE SURE PEOPLE FIND OUR FACILITY?

Make sure you provide the complete facility address and a phone number that will be manned. If there is any question, make sure you spell out where to park.

SHOULD WE HAVE HANDOUTS?

You should provide your participants whatever information you'd like them to know about your RVA and volleyball in your region.

WHAT IF WE DECIDE NOT TO HOST OPEN COURT?

This promotion is optional. Each RVA has the choice to host or not; it's their prerogative. However, we encourage all RVAs to prepare to take advantage of the Olympic Games and Gold Map traffic/exposure.

CAN THE PROMOTION PLACE EQUAL EMPHASIS ON BEACH/GRASS PROGRAMMING?

Each RVA/host can choose whatever venue and programming work best of them and place that emphasis on their marketing campaign/strategy. The national promotion will push Open Court as a way to try volleyball for free, however, the RVAs may run their program indoor or outdoor, whatever works best for them.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED COSTS TO HOST?

One-day membership is being covered by USAV, other than that, costs should be minimal. We see the clubs/HS being those willing to do this for free too - and if they demand rental, find another place that wants to grow the game together and note charge. Examples of ways to cut cost: partner with clubs to use their facility, partner with the city for park or beach use.



DURING

WHAT IF NO ONE SIGNS UP?

Pre-registration will give you an idea of what to expect, but you may very well get walk-ups who want to register at the door. You should be prepared to host the event with the likelihood of walk-ups.

WHAT IF 500 PEOPLE SHOW UP?

The pre-registration count will tip you off to the possibility of a large turnout, so you can add courts, if possible, or hours of operation.

WHAT IS A LIKELY NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS?

It depends on the population and marketing efforts, of course, but USA Hockey sees about 30-40 per location on average.

SHOULD WE SUPPLY FOOD AND BEVERAGE?

Food and beverage is up to each RVA. How festive do you want to make the event? Juice boxes are very popular.

HOW MANY BALLS SHOULD WE HAVE ON HAND?

However many you usually have for a volleyball clinic, plus, based on pre-registration numbers and number of courts, etc.

HOW MANY COURTS SHOULD WE PLAN FOR?

USA Volleyball will provide day-of-event logistic suggestions for one court and two or more. You could even host the event outside, on the beach or on the grass ... that's up to you.

WHAT IF SOMEONE SPRAINS AN ANKLE?

We recommend the R.I.C.E. treatment for ankle injuries.

HOW MANY VOLUNTEERS/COACHES?

One site director/head coach and at least one coach per court. Each coach who is 18 and older will need to have a current USAV background screening to work with the kids' court(s).

HOW DO WE INTEGRATE ADULTS ?

You should be prepared to have information sent to them in advance and on hand for adults who are interested in adult leagues, coaching, officiating, volunteering, etc. While the promotion is aimed at young people, we recommend that if you do have adults interested in participating in Open Court your should provide them with their own court.

AFTER

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

USA Volleyball will provide a post-event survey to distribute for participants, both players and hosts, to learn what went right and what went wrong.

WHAT IF A KID WANTS TO START TOMORROW?

Each RVA will get the contact information of each participant. If a kid wants to join a volleyball program, you should be prepared to share information about programs in your area.

WHAT IF A KID IS INTERESTED IN PLAYING, BUT ISN'T READY FOR FULL-TIME PARTICIPATION?

USA Hockey and its clubs have instituted 'transition' programs that are short in duration and cost to keep kids interested in exploring the sport in their Try Hockey for Free program.

HOW DO WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EVENT?

USA Volleyball will provide suggestions on next steps after the event, but RVA should be prepared to communicate with the participants following the event.



PARTICIPANTS

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

Gym clothes and shoes. Dress comfortably to be active.

DO I NEED KNEEPADS?

They do come in handy, but are not required for Open Court.

DO I NEED TO BRING A LUNCH?

Well, that depends on ... did you eat a late breakfast? No, we don't think you will need a lunch. Maybe bring a water bottle.

DO I HAVE TO SHOW UP RIGHT AT THE BEGINNING?

Open Court is like an open gym, so you can arrive when you like, but if you show up early, you'll get to play more.

AM I TOO SHORT FOR VOLLEYBALL?

No, you're not.

WHERE'S THE BATHROOM?

Each site will have a bathroom. Ask when you arrive.

WHERE DO WE PARK?

Each site will provide directions and parking instructions.

WHAT DO MY PARENTS DO DURING OPEN COURT?

Your parents can drop you off and then head to get coffee, if they'd like. (Just make arrangements for them to come back for you.) Each site will have its own unique setting and may or may not have a viewing area for parents.