

ATHLETE BILL OF RIGHTS

Know your rights to the OVA Tryout Window

Ethical Practices for the Tryout Window

The purpose of this document is to assist athletes and their families during the tryout process. It is the club's responsibility to provide the athlete's family with all information currently available about its program. It is the responsibility of each athlete and family member to become educated about the program they are considering joining. It is the responsibility of both parties – club and athlete – to honor every commitment!

Clubs/Teams/Coaches do not own the rights to players. As of May 31st



annually, players finish their commitment to their indoor club. Players (with help from their parents/guardians) have the right to choose where they want to obtain their club volleyball experience. Each membership year, each athlete has the right to choose to play for any club/team which best fits their development.

The principles outlined in this document are not absolute or policy. They are what the OVA expects in a fair process for all athletes. You may find clubs that go above and beyond the ideals in this document and some that do not. This information is only intended to assist you as you navigate the club tryout process. It is important to remember that **you are the consumer**, and you are purchasing a product! It is your responsibility to know what you are buying.

If a club is acting in a way that appears to not have your best interests in mind, then you should consider that in your decisions. There are many quality programs offered throughout our Province. Our desire is for every athlete, family, and club to be satisfied with the decisions they make during tryouts.

Athletes and families have a right to full information from the club about the tryout process and major team details. This includes how they are using the open commitment period if at all.

Different clubs conduct different types of tryouts. Become educated about the type of tryout you are attending and the team details by asking questions.

- How long or how many days is the tryout?
- Is the athlete being pursued for a specific team or for any team in the club for which the athlete is age eligible?
- Has the club already re-signed certain athletes, or is it a blank slate and open to all positions?
- Is the athlete being considered for any team in the club, including the "top" team in her/his age group, or have some teams already been filled?
- Tryouts may be one session, or they may be conducted over several sessions on different days. Clubs have a right to charge a tryout fee, and multi-session tryouts may be more expensive than single-session tryouts.

If you are not comfortable with any of the answers provided by the club, it may be a sign to keep looking. The volleyball season runs from September to April, and you need to be confident in the commitment you are making.

Any team selection process which may take place during the open commitment period should follow a similar process to a September tryout. You should not have to attend an unreasonable number of sessions to elicit and invitation to commitment in the fall.

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Athletes and families have a right to attend any club tryout.

Athletes finish their commitment by May 31st each year.

Previous Club affiliations does not limit an athlete's options to attend tryouts.

Athletes can attend multiple tryouts. September tryouts should not be contingent on attending optional training opportunities in the off season.

Athletes who are committed to accept an offer should not be required to attend September Tryouts.

Athletes who are seeking new programs have the right to learn about the clubs they are interested in and contact the appropriate club member if they have any questions about the program. Important things to consider when looking for a new club:

- What are the clubs' values?
- Do practice and training times work with our family schedule?
- What is the club's refund or financial policy?
- What is included in the club fees?
- What level of parental involvement is required?

Athletes and families have the right to select any club without receiving pressure from the club representatives or risk of consequences or repercussions.

The Volleyball Community is very tight knit, and the potential exists for conflict-of-interest to arise. Athletes and families have the right to accept or refuse an offer or attend another club's tryout without the fear of consequences or repercussions.

Athletes should not be given deadlines to accept offers outside the times indicated on the offer forms.

Athletes have a right to know, the coach, team, and age category they are committing to. They also have the right to ask questions regarding any offer they receive to further educated themselves on the commitment they are making.

At a minimum Athletes have the right to know the following information:

- Head coach
- Team
- Age category

If this information is not provided when an athlete commits to accept an offer or on an OVA offer form, they have the right to ask questions and or ask for stipulations to be added to the terms of their agreement.

Athlete's questions should not be based on potential playing time or position as these factors are fluid during the season and cannot be predicted. Teams and athletes evolve over time and growth and change is inevitable.

Clubs should not pressure athletes to accept OVA any offers or commitments. If a club pressuring any one to accept an offer this maybe a sign that this is not the right club for you.

Clubs have the right to know the status of their offer as soon as you know as this does affect their planning and if they need to offer a position to any additional athletes. Hoarding offers is not fair to anyone.

Athletes and families who accept a club's offer MUST cease attending other clubs' tryouts and notify other clubs (in whose tryouts they participated or that have already offered them a position) of their intent to accept an offer with another club.



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Athletes and families have a right to be notified of their status as soon as possible once the club has reached a decision regarding the athlete.

For multiple day tryouts, athletes have the right to know their status as soon as possible. Athletes should not be required to attend additional days of a tryout if they are not a developmental fit for the team. Athletes have the right to have this information communicated confidentially considering the sensitive nature of the information.

Clubs have a right to have all financial obligations honored.

Athletes that commit to a club for the season are also committing to meet all financial responsibilities required by the club as part of their season contract. Families should not commit to a club if they are unable to meet those obligations. The OVA does not get involved in financial matters between clubs and athletes. A club's financial and refund policy will always take precedence.



Notes about the Open Commitment period

Reminder that this is a commitment between the club and athlete to sign an offer form in September and both parties should be honouring this commitment therefore:

- Athletes should not be committing to sign with multiple clubs or attending other team selection opportunities with other clubs once they have committed to accepting an offer.
- Clubs should not be asking for committal from multiple athletes for one position on a team.
- Clubs must provide the athletes in writing, with the conditions of their commitment and confirm the head coach, team, age division and practice venue(s)
- Clubs are permitted to collect deposits to secure the spot within the team and club. All monies must be returned to the athlete if the club is unable to follow through on what they have committed to offer the athlete. Clubs are under no obligation to return deposits to the athlete if they rescind 7 days after their initial commitment to accept an offer.

Clubs should not be asking athletes to earn their commitment through attending an excessive number of open gyms in the summer months.

Athletes should not feel pressured by any club representative during this period.

Tryouts are inherently emotional, taxing, and fraught with nerves and uncertainty.

The best way to prepare for this time in the volleyball season is to educate yourself on the programs you are interested, understand what your athletes and family's needs are and knowing the Tryout Window Policy.



Being prepared will never take the butterflies away, but it helps when it comes time to commit to a program.