

Newsletter



2018-2019 Announcement

CLUB ARROWHEAD TO CONTINUE IN 2018-19

Q&A With Club Arrowhead Director Charlotte Pottle

Players and parents have expressed concerns over the future of Club Arrowhead and we want to put those concerns to rest by answering your questions, thoughtfully.

In 1995, Club Director Charlotte Pottle co-founded Club Arrowhead Volleyball for her younger sister, Cari, and went on to be part of the coaching staff at Oakwood Middle School winning 6 consecutive championships. At Centennial High School, Charlotte was fortunate to be a parent spectator to their 1998 (Cari) and 2008 (Brooke) State Championship and on the coaching staff as JV coach, for their 2016 State Championship. Charlotte also serves as the Arizona Region of USA Volleyball's Junior Division Coordinator. We thank Charlotte for her time in answering a few questions.

Q. How long has Club Arrowhead been in business?

Club Arrowhead started 23 years ago in 1995.

Q. Why did you start the club and why are you still with it?

When my younger sister came to live with my husband and me, it was important to us to keep the good in her life. We had a small baby and my sister needed a family. One of the good things in Cari's life was club volleyball.

When we took her to tryouts, we learned about the cost and knew we could not afford it. We were not sure how to break the news to her that she could not play club volleyball.

The very next day, I ran into a mom from my sister's club team who expressed how excited she was that the girls would be playing together again. That's when I told her we just couldn't afford to have Cari play.

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Deb Martin, pictured center, and Charlotte Pottle, pictured right. They led the annual Giving Tree holiday charity fundraiser for this Peoria family in 2017.

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The mom said, "Let's start our own club."

My response was, "How are we going to do that?"

The next thing I knew, we were sitting in a lawyer's office having our Club Arrowhead papers drawn.

The mom that I ran into was Sandee Montez. Many know her daughters Tera Rade, Natalie Miller, and Stefany Pew. Stefany played ball with my sister, Cari.

After 10 years, Sandee stepped away to give more time to her career. Just prior to Sandee leaving, Deb Martin joined us and now serves as our Finance Director and coach.

Deb Martin has chosen to retire from coaching and step away from club volleyball. She has been a BIG part of Club Arrowhead. Deb has touched the lives of so many athletes and families and she will be dearly missed.

We want to relay to our families that Club Arrowhead will continue to provide club volleyball just as it has for the past 23 years.

By design, I have chosen to scale down the number of teams and focus on the quality of teams we have moving forward.

"Why am I still with it? Because I have grown to love and care for my coaches and our families that have played with us and are still playing with us. I feel an obligation to see them through this great opportunity with some of the top coaches and to assist and assure them their daughters will make it to the next level of play."

-Charlotte Pottle

CLUB ARROWHEAD'S FUTURE

Q. What are your future plans?

Many share the same perception that a "successful" club has 20+ teams. That is a misguided, misconstrued judgement.

The number of teams a club has does not determine how successful or superior it is. 1 team or 40 teams, I do not base the success of Club Arrowhead solely on the number of teams I have.

My purpose and focus has always been to support my coaching staff on all levels and to get know each family, personally.

Not only do I want to provide them with the best coaching Arizona volleyball has to offer, but I also be an administrator who is physically there supporting the athletes and their families.

Q. Why does Club Arrowhead not have its own facility?

This, too, is by design.

When running a volleyball club, managing a facility is the last component to consider. I am able to prevent myself from running this club out of desperation, panic and worry by not adding the financial stress of having to maintain a facility.

At one time, a close Club Arrowhead family and Deb and Vik Martin offered to build a facility. We sincerely appreciated the offer. After weighing the pros and cons for their families and the hefty financial commitment, they chose not to build. It was a great dream and a generous offer. And it was very well thought out and considered.

Again, a club's success is not to be judged by whether it has a facility. I do not want to be forced to horde everyone in just so that I can pay gym fees.

Club Arrowhead has many, great facilities which are more than adequate to train and coach in. Renting these facilities as needed eliminates the headache, heartache, and expenses that come with owning a facility.

Owning a facility doesn't **make** a club... but it can **break** a club.

Q. What am I paying for when my child plays for Club Arrowhead?

The majority of your fees go toward paying your coach, a practice facility rental, and tournaments which require entry fees on the road. You may also have additional travel fees for out-of-state tourneys.

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FOCUSING ON THE "RIGHT NOW"

Our teams have grown and accomplished so much this season.

The season is far from over as we have National Qualifiers and National Championships still to play... and WIN!

We are so proud of all of our athletes and coaches for all of their dedication and look forward to watching you finish out this season on a high note with your friends and families!

ABOUT FALL TRYOUTS...

Q. What is the priority for now?

The priority right now is RIGHT NOW!

Each of my Club Arrowhead teams are phenomenally talented and have had major growth and accomplishments this season.

Stop worrying about what you do not have control over right now.

No matter who or what is being told to you - or promised to you - about next season, things will change significantly between now and then.

If you are worrying about next club season, then I ask, "What does that say about your school team?"

Don't discredit or have a lack of respect for your school program. That program comes BEFORE our club season starts up again.

Many are worrying about next year because of inaccurate rumors... or maybe club coaches are approaching our players about switching to their clubs next season.

So ask yourself this question, "What is the integrity of a club and that particular coach or person approaching you to play for them next season... while you're still participating in this current season?"

Would that club coach appreciate another coach coming up and ruining the chemistry and cohesiveness of their team if the same thing happened to one of their players during season?

This behavior only fosters doubt, mistrust and contention between teammates and parents... and ultimately breaks down the team.

The most important thing to remember: You have the absolute control to choose to stay focused or entertain next year now and be that person who divided the team you have right now.



Q. What changes will I notice next fall?

I'm not sure many will notice a lot of change.

However, the first change I do plan on implementing or fostering, is to create an atmosphere during the pre-tryout season which will have parents and players less stressed and more reassured.

It has been noted by all, club directors, coaches, players, and parents, that an unceremonious amount of stress is placed on all during tryouts.

Club volleyball is not and should never be as it has been the past few years. The anxiety is ridiculous and we each need to have better control of our emotions.

DID YOU KNOW?

Q. How did you get the idea for a giraffe as the Club Arrowhead mascot?

From a simple thought while out shopping one night! I was big, fat, and pregnant with my youngest. All of us ladies know how unpleasant it is to shop for maternity clothes. Old Navy had just come out with a maternity line and it was cute and cheap and when approaching the maternity section, I had the biggest chuckle when I saw their logo was a whale.



As I was laughing to myself and thinking that icon was so appropriate for us pregnant women, I thought about all other designer labels. Ralph Lauren's polo horse. Banana Republic's elephant. Izod's alligator.

I thought to myself, "What would work and be recognized for a volleyball club?"

It needed to be something tall, strong, and cute.

And that is how the Club Arrowhead giraffe came into our logo.