



Elite Volleyball Prep Academy

NEWSLETTER

Volleyball News

Nick Behrens wins Outstanding Club Director

Congratulations to Nicholas Behrens!

We're proud to share that Nicholas Behrens has been named Outstanding Club Director for the Florida Region! This prestigious award is presented to a Florida Region member who has demonstrated exceptional service benefiting the Region, its members, and the overall mission of growing the sport. Coach Nick has gone above and beyond—volunteering his time, energy, and resources to create a positive, high-impact environment for athletes, coaches, and families alike. His leadership and dedication continue to set the standard in our volleyball community. Way to go, Coach Nick!

(Learn more about Coach Nick on page 2)



Pictured with Mary Andrew, Chair and Commissioner of the Florida Region Board, USA Volleyball



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Meet Coach Nick!



We had the pleasure of sitting down with Coach Nick following his recognition. Here's what he had to say:

Leadership & Vision

What does this recognition represent for you and Elite Sports?

This award is a reflection of the collective dedication, passion, and hard work of everyone involved in Elite Sports. From our coaching staff to our athletes, families, and volunteers—every single person has played a role in building the culture and success of this club. It's not about one person; it's about a shared vision and a united effort to create something special.

How does it feel to be honored as the Outstanding Club Director?

It's incredibly humbling, but more than anything, it feels like a celebration of our entire club community. This recognition belongs to all of us. I'm just one part of a much larger team that shows up every day with heart, grit, and a commitment to excellence.

What inspired you to start or lead this volleyball club?

The vision began with Justin Bash. He imagined Elite Sports as more than just a club—it was a place where athletes could grow not only in volleyball but also as individuals. I was drawn to that mission: to be part of a community that prioritizes character, teamwork, and long-term development. That vision has only come to life because of the incredible people who've joined us along the way. I'm deeply grateful for Justin's mentorship and the example he's set in leadership and personal growth.

How would you describe your leadership style, and how has it evolved over time?

My leadership style is collaborative and service-oriented. Over time, I've learned to listen more, trust more, and empower others to lead in their own ways. The best ideas often come from within the team, and I see my role as helping to bring those ideas to life.

What core values guide your decisions as a club director?

Integrity, growth, inclusivity, and community. Every decision we make is grounded in what's best for the athletes and the long-term health of the club. We lead with purpose and always keep the bigger picture in mind.

Achievements & Recognition

What does receiving the Outstanding Club Director award mean to you personally and professionally?

Personally, it's a moment of gratitude. Professionally, it's a reminder that when a group of people come together with a shared mission, incredible things can happen. This award is a symbol of what we've built together.

Can you share a moment or milestone that you feel best represents your club's growth under your leadership?

A defining moment came in our third season, when two of our teams qualified for the USA Volleyball Nationals. But it wasn't just about the achievement—it was about what it represented. The depth of talent, the unity among players, and the unwavering support across all age groups truly reflected the heart of Elite Sports. That moment captured who we are and what we stand for.

What do you think set your club apart from others this year?

Our culture of collaboration and care. We're not just focused on performance—we're focused on people. That holistic approach, combined with a relentless drive to improve, has made a real difference.

Team & Community Building

How do you foster a strong sense of community and teamwork within your club?

We prioritize open communication, shared experiences, and mutual respect. From team-building events to parent engagement, we make sure everyone feels like they're part of something bigger than themselves.

What strategies have you used to support athlete development both on and off the court?

We focus on the whole athlete—offering skill-building, character development, and a strong support network. It's all about teamwork, communication, and resilience. Off the court, we encourage athletes to set personal goals, engage in community service, and maintain good grades. Parents are also key partners—they reinforce these values at home.

How do you handle challenges or conflicts within the team or staff?

With transparency, empathy, and a solutions-first mindset. We encourage open dialogue and always aim to resolve issues in a way that strengthens relationships and reinforces our values.

Development & Innovation

What new initiatives or programs have you introduced that have made a significant impact?

A standout addition has been the integration of Balltime AI, a tool that tracks individual touches, stats, and can create highlight reels. This has been a game-changer in helping coaches ensure equitable development opportunities and in giving athletes clear, data-driven feedback. It's also helped us identify gaps in training and make more informed decisions about practice planning and player development.

How do you stay current with trends and best practices in volleyball coaching and club management?

Through continuous learning—attending clinics, networking with other directors, and encouraging our staff to pursue certifications and education. We believe in evolving together.

What role does technology or data play in your club's training and operations?

A big one. We use video analysis, performance tracking, and scheduling tools to enhance both training and communication. But we always balance tech with the human element—it's a tool, not a replacement for connection.

Looking Ahead

What are your goals for the club in the next 3–5 years?

To continue growing sustainably, expand access to underserved communities, and develop more leaders—on and off the court. We want to be known not just for winning, but for developing great people.

What advice would you give to aspiring club directors or coaches?

Surround yourself with good people, stay humble, and never lose sight of your "why." It's not about being the best—it's about bringing out the best in others.

How do you hope to continue making a difference in the volleyball community?

By sharing what we've learned, working with other clubs, and continuing to build a culture where everyone feels seen, valued, and empowered to grow.

Tournament Pictures—Northeast USAV Qualifier

Elite sent 7 Red teams to The Northeast USAV National Qualifier (NEQ) in Philly and Maryland. Here are the results for all red teams: 12 Red 2nd overall, 13 Red 2nd overall, 14 Red SRQ 2nd overall and earned a USAV bid, 15 Red Nancy 2nd overall, 15 Red Frank 3rd overall, 16 Red SRQ 9th overall, 17 Red SRQ 3rd overall!! Congratulations Teams!!!



Tournament Pictures!



Tournament Pictures!



Team Bonding!





Skills Classes and Clinics

Sign up for skills classes and clinics before they're full! <https://www.elitevball.com/registerhere>

NEW SKILLS CLASSES NOW OPEN FOR ENROLLMENT

AFTER SCHOOL SKILLS	ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL	TUES./THURS. 3:15-5:15PM
ADVANCED SKILLS	CARDINAL MOONEY HS	SUNDAYS 12PM-2PM
DAYTIME SKILLS	ELLITE SOUTH -7172 15th STREET E, SARASOTA	WED. 10AM-11:30AM
SETTER SKILLS CLASS	CARDINAL MOONEY HS	SUNDAYS 6:00-7:30PM

ELITE TAMPA PRESENTS

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SERIES WITH COACH SHEP AT THE MAC

SKILL ACADEMY AGES 13+ THUR 5:30-7:30 SAT 1:00-3:00	SKILL BUILDERS AGES 9-12 THUR 5:30-7:30 SAT 1:00-3:00
HOME SCHOOL COLLEGE PREP FOR GIRLS TUE 10:00-12:00	HOME SCHOOL ADVANCED SKILLS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL WED 12:00-2:00
HOME SCHOOL COLLEGE PREP FOR GIRLS WED 10:00-12:00	COLLEGE PREP FOR GIRLS 14+ TUE 10:00-12:00 SAT 3:00-5:00PM
ADVANCED SKILLS 11-14 SAT 3:00-5:00PM	





What's next on the volleyball agenda?

Tryouts 2025-26—July 11 to July 13

2025-2026 tryout registration is open!

Register Here! <https://elitevball.sportngin.com/register/form/064218678>

Join Southwest Florida's undisputed preeminent volleyball club. This season will offer National, Premier and Regional teams as well as Elite Academy for local play and development. Stay tuned for additional exciting preseason announcements clearly defining Elite as the only premier academy in Southwest Florida.

Summer Camps

Summer Camp!

June 2– June 5

8:00am—12:00pm (ages 8-13)

1:00pm—5:00pm (ages 14-18)

Register Here: [Elite Volleyball Prep Academy / Elite Sports Inc - Class Registration](#)



All-Around Development Clinic with 5x Olympian

Get ready to LEARN FROM THE PROS!

We are so excited to welcome Brazil's Helia 'Fofão' Souza Pinto for an exclusive clinic this summer!

This intensive clinic will focus on

- Court acumen
- Game emotional intelligence
- Key volleyball techniques

Join us for this next-level session on JULY 10th! Register online: <https://www.gomotionapp.com/team/flev/page/system/classreg-shopping>

ELITE WELCOMES
HELIA SOUZA PINTO - "FOFÃO"
3 X OLIMPIC MEDALIST

JOIN US FOR AN ALL-AROUND
INTENSIVE CLINIC FOCUSING ON:

- VOLLEYBALL SKILLS
- COURT ACUMEN
- GAME EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

THURSDAY, JULY 10TH
SESSION 1 - 9AM - 12PM
SESSION 2 - 1PM - 4PM

**Players should register for the session that best fits their schedule.

\$150 PER PLAYER

First-time 5x Olympic player in Sardola

REGISTER ONLINE!
@ELITEVBALL1
WWW.ELITEVBALL.COM

Recruiting and Sports Performance

Sports Performance - Total Athlete training program is available with Jason Riley. Click here for more information: [Sports Performance \(sportngin.com\)](https://elitevball.sportngin.com)

Recruiting - Elite offers recruiting opportunities at the highest level with Coach Shepardson. Learn more about recruiting resources here: [Recruiting \(sportngin.com\)](https://elitevball.sportngin.com)

SportsEngine, the Elite Website

Bookmark our website: <https://elitevball.sportngin.com/home>

Practice Schedules/Calendar

Elite Practice Schedules. Please look on Elite website for up to date schedules: <https://elitevball.sportngin.com/page/show/8667825-calendar#>

To find a specific team, scroll to the bottom of the page and check the box(es).

Tournament Schedule

The tournament schedule can be found here: [Tournament Schedule \(sportngin.com\)](https://elitevball.sportngin.com)

Elite Sponsorship and Co-Marketing Opportunity

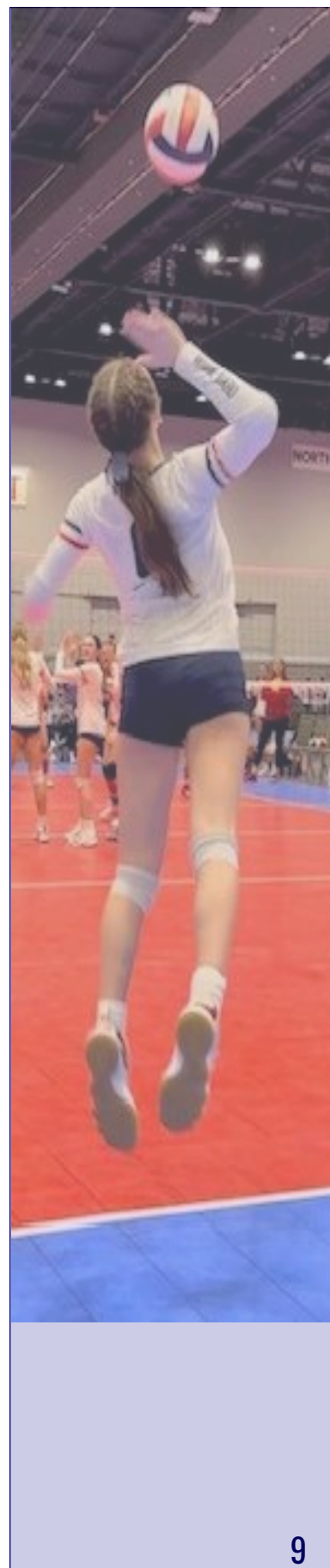
Know of an organization interested in sponsoring Elite? Our sponsorship opportunities offer businesses a chance to support the local community while gaining valuable exposure and return on investment. If you own a business or know someone who might be interested, please contact us at

ADMIN@ELITEVBALL.com to learn more.

Coaching Opportunities

Looking to coach the best athletes with the best club in Southwest Florida? Elite is currently recruiting National and Regional coaches for immediate opportunities.

Enjoy best in class compensation and growth opportunities. Apply today by emailing Admin@elitevball.com



Athlete of the Month Spotlight

Each month, we proudly spotlight an athlete who truly represents the heart and hustle of Elite. This month, we're excited to celebrate **Reese McLoughlin** as our Athlete of the Month! Reese shines as a standout player on the Elite 14 Red-1 SRQ Team, bringing energy, skill, and passion to every match. As a 6-rotation Outside Hitter, she's an absolute thrill to watch—dynamic, determined, and always ready to compete. Reese, we're so proud to have you as part of our Elite family. Keep soaring!



ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



REESE MCLOUGHLIN

8TH GRADE - AGE 13



ELITE VOLLEYBALL

What do you look for in a great coach?

I look for a coach who's technical, really understands the game, and plays to win. I also want someone who pushes me, holds me accountable, and motivates me to be the best version of myself. Over the past three seasons, I've been fortunate to have exactly that in Coach Adam, with incredible support from Coach Nancy!

Is there an athlete you look up to?

The athlete I look up to the most is my sister, Kirra. She's an incredible volleyball player and sets a great example on and off the court. I really admire how she keeps a positive attitude no matter what the score is. She's helped lead her team to a lot of success over the years.

What are your hobbies outside of volleyball?

Outside of volleyball, I love anything creative. I enjoy painting, crafting, baking, music and reading!

Why are you passionate about volleyball?

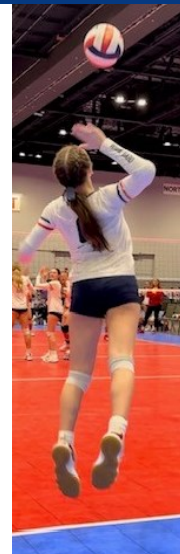
It's hard to explain exactly why I'm so passionate about volleyball—I just love everything about it especially the energy and the competition. My goal is to play in college, and until then, I'll continue to train very hard.

Have you been a captain?

Yes, I've been fortunate to serve as a team captain! It's a role I didn't take lightly, and it was an absolute honor. It taught me teamwork and leadership!

What do you believe to be one of your weaknesses, and what are you doing to improve it?

One of my weaknesses is letting my emotions get the best of me, especially during really intense games. I work really hard on and off the court, and I'm super competitive, so it can be tough when things don't go the way I hoped. I'm trying to stay more in control of my emotions, both during and after games. Luckily, my coaches, (Coach Adam & Coach Nancy) know this about me and they always helps me refocus.



Fun Facts

- The volleyball was originally a basketball bladder. In the early days, players used the inside of a basketball until a ball specifically for volleyball was developed.
- A volleyball can be hit up to 83 mph! Professional players can spike the ball at incredible speeds—some even faster than a car on the highway!
- The longest volleyball game lasted over 85 hours. It was played in the Netherlands in 2011 and holds the Guinness World Record for the longest marathon volleyball match.
- Volleyball is played on the moon—sort of! Astronauts on the International Space Station have played a version of volleyball in zero gravity using a balloon!
- The net height is different for men and women (Men's net: 7 feet 11 5/8 inches / Women's net: 7 feet 4 1/8 inches)
- Volleyball is one of the safest team sports. It has a relatively low injury rate compared to contact sports like football or basketball.



Do you own a business and wish to host our next Elite Spirit Day?

All proceeds donated to Elite will help benefit future programs and events.

Please email your business information to jgilmour@elitevball.com.

Your support helps fund essential programs like Sports Performance for our athletes!

If you haven't already done so, please join our **BAND** to stay updated on all communications and upcoming events: <https://band.us/n/a2a9A4dfh946y>

Not seeing Elite communications? Check your spam folder and make sure you're receiving emails from our Elite email address : Admin@elitevball.com



If you'd like to share pictures for inclusion in the next newsletter, please email them to:

jgilmour@elitevball.com

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