



## **Southwest Milwaukee Volleyball Club**

**1260 S. West Avenue**

**Waukesha, WI 53186**

Back in March, Southwest announced we would not be utilizing the athlete early retention period in August. While we hoped to retain many of our athletes, we also wanted to give equal opportunity to any newcomers to the area or to club volleyball by having all spots available on our teams.

### **What's new?**

Since March, we can all agree that things have changed dramatically from our "normal" life before COVID-19. We have no idea what club season will look like in the coming year, but we remain hopeful that we will have a season. *We have opted to participate in the athlete retention period that runs August 1-10 for the upcoming season.*

### **Why the change?**

We are concerned about the ability to host a "normal" tryout with 75-100 kids in a gym. We certainly can't do that in our Waukesha facility, and gym rentals are difficult to obtain for the foreseeable future.

We are hearing of more clubs turning to this retention period this year, which will limit the ability of our Southwest athletes to look at any additional options. These clubs are likely struggling with the same issues--uncertainty about being able to host their typical tryouts. This early retention offer will give our Southwest families something certain in this time of uncertainty. We look at it as a way to pick up where your seasons left off in March.

This is not necessarily a permanent change, as we believe the fair and equal tryout process is an important one--but this is something we had to wrestle with as the last couple months have evolved.

### **What happens next?**

On August 1, you will receive a formal retention offer from Southwest. You will have until August 10 at 7pm to accept the offer by signing and returning the form. If you do not accept this offer, you are free to attend any tryouts that may be happening in October/November, including Southwest.

If you accept the offer, you will return the signed acceptance form, and will be guaranteed a spot on one of the teams at your age level. Exact team placement will happen at a later time. You would not attend other tryouts in the fall, as you will have already committed to Southwest for the 2020-2021 season. **Parents please read carefully, by signing the acceptance letter you are committing to Southwest for the 2020-2021 club season.**

We would still hold tryouts in the fall to fill any spots that weren't accepted in August. As many athletes will already have a spot to play, these tryouts could be smaller and hosted at our Southwest facility.

**Some questions you might have...**

**Who will my coach be?** Coaches are not set for the following season. Southwest typically retains about 90% of their coaching staff from year-to-year, and we expect nothing different this year. Coaches have been able to do some continuing education in this downtime of sports, so we are excited for them to come back with some new knowledge and growth.

**What will fees be?**

We anticipate a possible raise in cost of approximately 10-15%. This will be dependent on how much insurance prices rise, which might also lead to a rise in tournament fees.

**In conclusion...**

We know this is not an easy decision to make in the next couple weeks, but we hope it will give some peace of mind in this unknown time. Your children still have a place to play. Our coaching staff is eager to get back into the gym and work with them.

Thanks for your time and understanding as we navigate these uncharted waters. We hope your family remains safe and healthy.