

EMPIRE

VOLLEYBALL CLUB

Empire Volleyball Club U9-U14 FAQ

What is club volleyball?

Club volleyball is a program for players of differing abilities to develop their volleyball skills through training and competition. Empire Volleyball Club is a competitive club volleyball program whose travel teams compete in the USA Volleyball (USAV), Junior Volleyball Association (JVA), and West Coast Volleyball Association (WCVBA) events. USAV and JVA are the primary organizers of tournaments around the country with a major annual season ending tournament. WCVBA is the regional league of JVA, providing consistent, high-level play for only the best clubs in Northern California.

Empire National and Power Travel

The National and Power Travel teams are for players who are passionate about playing at the highest level possible and are prepared to commit significant time and energy to make volleyball a priority. Practices begin in November after the high school season is complete. Teams will practice 3 times per week and play tournaments into May/June.

Empire Regional Travel

Regional teams are ideal for players who are looking for a bit less commitment. Practices begin in November after the high school season is complete. Teams will practice 2 times per week starting in January and play one to two tournaments a month into May. League tournaments are played within the Bay Area.

Empire Juniors

Juniors teams are designed to give girls an opportunity to play club volleyball at a younger age and a much lower price. These teams are strictly for player development and for that reason, playing time is not decided based on performance. Skill development of each player is the goal of Juniors teams. Teams will start skills training in January and practice 2 times per week January - May. They play in one to two tournaments a month in the Bay Area.

Why play Empire?

Empire Volleyball Club has earned recognition as one of the top clubs in the country, and Empire has gained recognition among college coaches for the development of well-trained volleyball players. Our staff is unparalleled in the level of experience at the top levels of the sport. The most experienced, professional coaches in our area coach for Empire. Our alumni have gone on to play and coach at numerous colleges and universities across the country.

Empire offers unique programs from our Mighty Mites at ages 4-7, Juniors 3rd-5th, Middle School, all the way up to our elite high school travel teams who have experienced success at the highest levels of the sport. We offer long term growth opportunities for athletes at all stages of development.

What happens after tryouts?

Offers can, and will, be made at tryout sessions. It is impossible for the coaches to speak to all players at a session so our coaches will also make phone calls to potential players on each team beginning immediately after the tryout has concluded.

Please be patient! Every season we are still making phone calls to players well into the week after tryouts to fill all our teams. If you want to play for Empire and have not heard from a coach by Wednesday of the week following tryouts, please Operations Manager Victoria VanTassell at victoria@empirevolleyball.com to get an update on your status. We understand that tryouts can be stressful to players. We will do our best to contact each player as soon as possible. Timely responses are essential to the flow of information post-tryouts!

How does my player accept and solidify her offer?

- *Verbally accept the offer*
- *Log in to sign the Commitment Form and Liability Releases*
- *Log in to pay the Deposit*

Until these steps are complete, that spot is not guaranteed and may be offered to another player. This process can be done online as soon as an offer is extended.

How many players are on a team?

Teams typically carry 9-12 players.

How long is the season?

Travel teams begin training in November. Tournaments begin in December. Teams attending National Championships will continue their season into mid to late June. Teams not attending Nationals will end in May. Juniors are January-May.

When and where are practices held?

Official practices begin in November after the high school season is complete. National teams practice 2- 3 times per week, Bay Area teams have 2 practices per week. Our main practice facility is the Empire Gym at the Epicenter, Santa Rosa, although satellite sites are used as well in Rohnert Park and Windsor.

Are there attendance requirements?

To remain eligible, players must attend practice regularly. All absences must be cleared with the coach, preferably 24 hours in advance. Acceptable absences include illness, academic conflicts, school sport practice or contests, and major school activities.

what is included in the fees?

Fees cover:

*Facilities
Coach salaries
Equipment
Hudl Analytics for National teams
Uniforms and Gear
Insurance
Administration
Coach hotels and per diem for **WCVBA**
League tournaments*

Fees do not include:

*Special tournament entry fees (outside of league play)
Coach hotel and per diem for non-league events
Player and chaperone hotels if applicable
Airfare for special tournaments if applicable*

**These are billed separately. A player who opts not to attend a tournament is still responsible for their share of the team travel expenses.*

Is Fundraising Available?

Yes, we will have fundraising available during pre-season. More information to follow at the parent meeting.

Do you have a refund policy?

Empire fees are based on the number of players participating at the beginning of the year and they are not variable. If a player no longer plays with her team and decides to leave during the season, the costs are not prorated. Therefore, there are absolutely no refunds.