



# 2024-2025 Club Season Information Guide

## **A little bit about Ace VBA**

For over two decades, Ace Volleyball & Athletics (“ACE”) has been coaching 5-17 year old athletes and advancing volleyball programs around the Atlanta area. ACE trains players at several locations inside Atlanta’s I-285 perimeter. In addition to volleyball skills, we take pride in developing our players with life skills that serve them beyond the court.

## **Always Communicate Everything**

Our philosophy of “Always Communicate Everything” emphasizes the importance of transparent and open communication. It promotes the idea that sharing information, thoughts, and feelings openly leads to better understanding, stronger relationships, and more effective problem-solving.

This philosophy encourages players to communicate honestly and authentically, even when it may be uncomfortable or challenging. By prioritizing clear and consistent communication, everyone can build trust, foster collaboration, and navigate conflicts more effectively.

# Ace VBA Staff

We foster a diverse coaching team, drawing from a range of volleyball backgrounds. Each member contributes a distinct playing history, ranging from high school, club, collegiate levels, and into post-collegiate play. Additionally, all coaches possess prior coaching experience. While some join us from external programs, others refine their coaching abilities through our developmental programs, working alongside our seasoned staff.

Ace Club Directors actively participate in tryouts and assist during practices. They also lead our in-house coaching workshops to keep all coaches aligned with our philosophy, maintain high-quality standards, and improve communication. This collaborative approach not only cultivates a cohesive work environment among the coaching staff but also sets a strong example for players in terms of effective communication and teamwork dynamics.

All of our coaches bios can be found on our website.

Returning coaches typically progress with their team from the previous season, there are some occasional exceptions.

Coaches will be announced after tryouts.

## **What is covered in this packet:**

- **Parent & Player: expectations & commitment (5)**
- **What team level is right for my player? (6)**
- **Local Team Information (7)**
- **Regional Team Information (8)**
- **Season fees & payment options (9)**
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# Parent & Player: Expectations and Commitment


When you join Ace, both you and your player will be required to review and sign our parent/player agreement. Regardless of your team's level, this commitment signifies your dedication to the team. It's crucial to understand that even one player lacking the expected level of commitment can significantly affect the investment – financially and time-wise – made by the rest of the team. By signing with Ace, both parents and player(s) acknowledge and agree to adhere to our club's Code of Conduct, which outlines expected behavior and the repercussions for any violations.

Both parents and players are expected to set positive examples, whether on the court or in their roles as supportive family members. Negativity has no place at Ace, as we cultivate an environment conducive to growth and success for everyone involved. Trusting our coaches to lead by example, parents are expected to support both coaches and their players' teams. Parents and players are required to communicate with their head coach first regarding any questions or concerns during the season. Building strong communication and trust with your coaches is essential for fostering a successful team dynamic. For clarification on this matter, please refer to the conflict resolution section of the parent/player agreement.


# Which team level is right for my player?



Before proceeding with tryouts, it's crucial to evaluate the significance of volleyball in relation to other activities and commitments. Determine the number of days per week you can commit to practice. Additionally, carefully assess the tournament schedule and compare it with other priorities. Please note that school holidays and spring break are not considered valid excuses for missing a tournament.



Consider your budget carefully when evaluating volleyball expenses. Travel expenses can significantly impact your budget, transportation to and from tournament venues, meals, and any additional expenses incurred during travel. Additionally, most tournaments require staying at designated tournament hotels, chosen by the club. While we aim to secure moderate accommodations, they may not always be the most economical choice.



Before tryouts, make sure to research the clubs and teams thoroughly to understand their coaching staff, training philosophies, and team dynamics. Don't rush into decisions in the heat of the moment; take the time to make choices aligned with your player's goals.

# Local Teams

**Lowest level of commitment required.**  
**The best option for players with additional commitments.**

## Additional Details

- Mental Skills Training sessions are once a month. Typically on a Sunday.
- Sports performance training is incorporated into practices.

### Local Commitment Level:

- Playing club volleyball is not your only extra-curricular
- Practices and tournaments are mandatory without prior notice, but we understand there may be conflicts.

## Practice Information

Practices will be held out of either Agnes Scott College or Druid Hills Middle School

There are 3 practices per week: 2 weeknight and 1 on Sunday. Practices are 2 hours each in duration.

Practices are a high-priority

## Season Timeline

Local club season ends late April to early May. The end of the season is signified by the SRVA Regional tournament.

When joining our club you are are expected to participate for the entire duration of the season.

If your player accepts an offer to participate at AAU Nationals that would extend the season into June.

## Tournaments

U12-U14 Local Teams will play 5 tournaments

U15 Local Teams play 6 tournaments

Tournaments are mandatory

## Required Travel

No travel is required for local teams.

All tournaments will be within 1-hour of Atlanta.

Local teams will be entered in 3 local level tournaments, 1-2 regional level tournaments, and 1 national level tournament.

# Regional Teams

Highest level of commitment required. Volleyball should be your primary extra-curricular.

## Additional Details

- Mental Skills Training sessions are once a month. Typically on a Sunday.
- Sports performance training is incorporated into practices.

### Regional Commitment Level:

- Volleyball is your main extra-curricular
- All practices and tournaments are mandatory
- Missing scheduled practices and or tournaments will result in a loss of playtime

## Practice Information

Practices will be held out of either Agnes Scott College or Druid Hills Middle School

There are 3 practices per week: 2 weeknight and 1 on Sunday. Practices are 2 hours each in duration.

Practices are considered mandatory

## Tournaments

U12-U13 Regional Teams will play 6 tournaments

U14-U18 Regional Teams play 7 tournaments

Tournaments are mandatory

## Season Timeline

Regional club season ends late April to early May. The end of the season is signified by the SRVA Regional tournament.

When joining our club you are expected to participate for the entire duration of the season.

If your player accepts an offer to participate at AAU Nationals that would extend the season into June.

## Required Travel

2-3 travel tournaments within the Southern Region (all drivable distances).

Hotel, transportation, and food costs associated with travel tournaments are not included in club dues

Regional teams will be entered in 2 local level tournaments, 4 regional level tournaments, and 1 national level tournament.

# Season Fees & Payment Options

			Options Paid to Ace				
			Option 1	Option 2		Option 3	
Program	Season Price	Uniforms (Paid to Vendor)	Upfront Payment 5% Discount (Via cash/check)	Deposit (Due by 9/13)	8 Monthly payments	Deposit (Due by 9/13)	6 Monthly payments
U12-Local	\$3,680	\$400	\$3,116.00	\$600	\$335.00	\$600	\$536.00
U12-Regional	\$4,470	\$400	\$3,866.50	\$600	\$433.75	\$600	\$694.00
U13-Local	\$3,680	\$400	\$3,116.00	\$600	\$335.00	\$600	\$536.00
U13-Regional	\$4,470	\$400	\$3,866.50	\$600	\$433.75	\$600	\$694.00
U14-Local	\$3,680	\$400	\$3,116.00	\$600	\$335.00	\$600	\$536.00
U14-Regional	\$4,730	\$400	\$4,113.50	\$600	\$466.25	\$600	\$746.00
U15-Local	\$3,910	\$400	\$3,334.50	\$600	\$363.75	\$600	\$582.00
U15-Regional	\$4,730	\$400	\$4,113.50	\$600	\$466.25	\$600	\$746.00
U16-Regional	\$4,730	\$400	\$4,113.50	\$600	\$466.25	\$600	\$746.00
U17-Regional	\$4,730	\$400	\$4,113.50	\$600	\$466.25	\$600	\$746.00
U18-Regional	\$4,730	\$400	\$4,113.50	\$600	\$466.25	\$600	\$746.00



# Included in Season Dues

Age & Level	Total Tournaments	Training & Coaches
U12-Local U13-Local U14-Local	5	1- Head Coach 1-Assistant Coach Specialty coaches brought in as needed 3 practices per week Sports Performance training Mental Skills Training
U12-Regional U13-Regional	6	1- Head Coach 1-Assistant Coach Specialty coaches brought in as needed 3 practices per week Sports Performance training Mental Skills Training Travel expenses for 2 coaches
U15-Local	6	1- Head Coach 1-Assistant Coach Specialty coaches brought in as needed 3 practices per week Sports Performance training Mental Skills Training
U14-Regional U15-Regional U16-Regional U17-Regional U18-Regional	7	1- Head Coach 1-Assistant Coach Specialty coaches brought in as needed 3 practices per week Sports Performance training Mental Skills Training Travel expenses for 2 coaches

## Uniform Kits

**3 jerseys + arm sleeves**  
**1 pair of spandex/leggings**  
**Club jacket/hoodie**  
**Sweat pants**  
**Backpack**  
**2 practice shirts**

## Included in All

## Not Included

**Extra private lessons**  
**Volleyball shoes**  
**Knee pads**  
**Ankle Braces**  
**Player/parent travel expenses**

# Club Tryouts

## At Tryouts

During each tryout session, a 30-minute parent information session will be conducted, followed by a Q&A session. Our Club Directors will be available afterward to address any specific questions. While parents are welcome to wait in the lobby post-meeting, as a courtesy to all players and coaches, we do not permit observation of tryouts. For additional inquiries, please email us at [Info@AceVBA.com](mailto:Info@AceVBA.com)

## After Tryouts

At the conclusion of each tryout session, formal offers will be extended, with parents and players required to sign our Parent/Player agreement to secure a team spot. Players assessed before tryouts will also receive offers. If your player doesn't receive a formal offer immediately, they'll still get a tryout result email by 9:00 AM the next day. As teams are organized, meticulous attention is given to structuring them based on position, skill level, and prior experience.

We ask that you refrain from contacting the club directors on their personal phones for club season details. All information will be communicated and released within the pre-stated timeframe. Your cooperation in avoiding unnecessary phone calls or texts will ensure efficient communication for everyone involved.



**How do we indicate that our player wants to play for a Regional team and is fully committed to it? What if we are only interested in one team of level?**

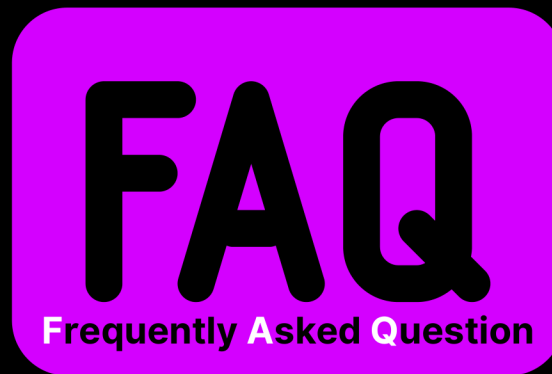
- Unless specified otherwise, we operate under the assumption that everyone attending tryouts aspires to make our highest available team. You may select both options if you do not have a strong preference.
- If you are only willing to consider a certain level team, kindly indicate this within your tryout registration. Please note that if your player does not make their preferred team, they will not be placed on an alternative team.





**What should we do our player is new and we don't know what position they play or if they're willing to play (or does play) more than one position? Which one should they try out for?**

- When registering your player for tryouts, you will be asked to select a primary and secondary position. The primary position should reflect their strongest and most preferred role. However, if your player plays multiple positions (e.g., one at school and another at club), please also indicate the secondary position.
- Additionally, there is a section in the registration form to list your child's previous experience, if any, including their positions played. You can also choose "no preference" if your player doesn't have a preferred position, which is common among younger players.



**If another club has tryouts scheduled at the same time as Ace, how do we decide which one to attend? Also, does attending a make-up tryout affect our chances of being selected?**

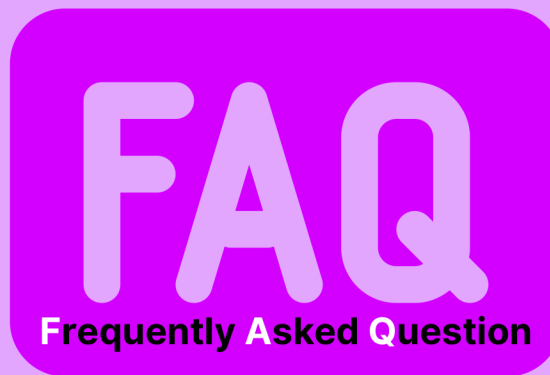
Given the multitude of volleyball clubs in Atlanta, conflicts are bound to arise. Here are some recommendations to help navigate this situation:

- Arriving late to tryouts isn't a problem; **communication is key!** If you have a busy schedule and need to attend multiple tryouts with a tight turnaround, simply inform us. Arriving a few minutes late will not negatively impact our decisions regarding player selection.
- Familiarize yourself with the various clubs by conducting thorough research and attending open gyms and clinics. This will assist you in prioritizing which tryouts to attend first. If you're unable to attend your main tryout date, feel free to reach out to us for alternative options or consider attending our make-up tryouts in August. However, please understand that by that time, many decisions may have already been made.



**How should we handle a situation where my child desires to play at a particular level, but we're aware of a conflicting commitment with either practice or a specific tournament?**

- Effective communication is crucial. By informing us of any conflicts (potential or guaranteed) upfront, we can explore alternative options. Alternatively, if a player is an good fit for a specific level or team but has a temporary practice conflict or a single tournament conflict, we may be able to accommodate.
- As the level of play increases, such as moving from a local to a regional team, it becomes more difficult to address conflicts. At the regional level, missing a tournament or regular practices can significantly impact the entire team.
- The most harmful action is accepting a spot on a team without notifying us of any issues until 1-2 weeks before a major tournament. Unfortunately, this has happened before, leading to significant consequences for the entire team.



## How does the tryout process work at Ace?

- Register for tryouts sooner rather than later, to allow us to plan .
- During tryouts, players will check-in before entering the gym to begin assessments. For the first 30 minutes, we will hold a parent information session in the lobby. After the meeting, parents are welcome to stay and wait in the lobby; however, as a courtesy to all players and coaches, we do not have space or allow parents to observe tryouts.
- At the conclusion of each tryout session, we plan to extend formal offers to players. At this time, players and parents will be asked to sign our Parent/Player agreement to secure their spot on the team. \*Additionally, offers will begin to be extended to players who were assessed prior to tryouts.
- In the event your player does not receive a formal offer at the conclusion of their tryout, it does not mean they will not receive an offer. All players will receive a tryout result email no later than 9:00 AM on the day following their tryout session. As teams are organized, meticulous attention is given to structuring them based on position, skill level, and prior experience.
- Our official commitment night will be on Sunday, September 8th (Exact times for commitment night will be communicated out once teams are formed).



**When is the 1st practice of the season?**

Practices will begin on Sunday, October 20th.

**Where will my player's team practice out of?**

Ace has two main club practice facilities- Agnes Scott College & Druid Hills Middle School. Once all teams are completed we will designate team practice locations based on age group and level. However, we do have teams jump locations from time to time for in-house scrimmages. So you'll most likely visit both locations.

**How many teams will there be in each age group?**

Teams are formed based on the turnout of players in each age group during tryouts. The formation of multiple teams within an age group is based on various factors, including the collective skill level exhibited during tryouts and the specific abilities of the players who participate. This allows for a comprehensive assessment of the talent pool, ensuring that each team is strategically assembled to maximize performance and player development.

**What will my player's practice schedule be?**

All Ace teams practice three (3) times per week. Two weeknights and Sunday. Exact practices times and locations will be released once teams are formed and confirmed.

**When are tournaments?**

Tournaments for all teams typically begin in mid-January and run until late April/early May. With the new season timeline there are some warm-up tournament options available in December that could be added on after commitment night.

**How many players are selected per team?**

There are between 11 and 13 players selected for each team.

**Do we take breaks for Holidays or School holidays?**

Yes, our schedule runs similar to most public school schedules. We take 1-week off in November, 2-3 weeks off between mid-December and the beginning of January, and we take the 1st week off in April.

## Parent Guide: Tournament FAQs

### **When will tournament locations, schedules, and further details be released?**

Tournament details, including location, wave time, pool play schedule, and admission information, are typically released anywhere from 2 weeks to 3 days before the tournament date. Major tournaments such as Lil Big South, Big South, and SRVA Regionals are always held at the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC).

### How will we be notified of tournament details?

A Club Director or your Head Coach will send out any available details via email prior to each tournament. However, please note that they do not have control over schedule release timing. Therefore, we kindly request that you refrain from contacting them before the Wednesday preceding the tournament date, especially regarding inquiries about tournament information.

In the tournament information emails, we will confirm the location, court number, and time of the team's first match. We usually request players to arrive 25-45 minutes before play begins, regardless of their initial role (playing, sitting, or refereeing), to accommodate any schedule adjustments or potential team absences. For tournaments held at convention centers, we advise allocating an additional 30-45 minutes to account for crowds, traffic, and the time needed to navigate to the court within the venue.

## Parent Guide: Tournament FAQs

### How many matches will our team play?

Teams are guaranteed 4 matches minimum for 1-day tournaments, 5 matches minimum for 2-day tournaments, and 7 matches minimum for 3-day tournaments. Teams can play anywhere from 2-5 matches in 1 day.



### When do tournaments start and end?

All tournaments will designate waves for each age group, with teams assigned either the AM or PM wave, indicating whether their matches begin at 8/9 AM or 2/3 PM. Pool play schedules outline when teams play, referee, or have breaks. The schedule can shift based on if matches run longer or go quicker than 1-hour each. It's impossible to predict when matches or tournaments will conclude. For 2-3 day tournaments, once the schedule is released, there's typically a section labeled "future matches" on schedule sites. This allows teams to anticipate their potential schedule for the next day based on match outcomes.

## Parent Guide: Tournament FAQs

### Is transportation provided for players to and from tournaments?

Ace does not provide transportation to or from tournaments; parents are responsible for arranging transportation for their players. We recommend coordinating with fellow team parents for carpooling options. Parking information sent out by tournament directors will be forwarded out to the teams. For tournaments being held out of the GWCC, if you are unable to pre-reserve/buy parking or you are looking for a more budget conscious option, Marta is great. If you choose to use Marta, please plan ahead to ensure you know when the last train departs, especially if your team is scheduled for the PM wave as matches may run behind schedule. Ride-share services are also an option.

## What's next



**Make sure to register for tryouts ASAP**

**The current Parent/Player Agreement is available on our website under the "Club" page. It is essential that both you and your player(s) read it before trying out at Ace to ensure a clear understanding of the club's philosophy, commitment level, and the decision you are both making.**

**If possible, please try to attend at least one of our tryout warm-up clinics. This will give your player the opportunity to meet some of our staff and become acquainted with our atmosphere.**

**This pamphlet will be available on the "Tryouts Page" of our website should you need easy access to it or need to share it.**

# REGISTER NOW

For 2024-2025 Club Season Tryouts

