CHRVA Junior Recruiting Policy FAQs for the 2027 Season

Each year, the Chesapeake Region Volleyball Association (CHRVA) receives several try-out related questions at this time of the season. The purpose of these frequently asked questions (FAQs) are to address some of the questions we have received.

Q. Are clubs allowed to hold tryouts prior to the Open Tryout Period identified in the CHRVA Junior Recruiting Policy?

A. Not if that club wishes to be eligible to register its team under CHRVA. The CHRVA Junior Recruiting Policy specifies that, among other things, "tryouts may not begin until the start of the Open Tryout Period specified." The CHRVA Junior Recruiting Policy also details that "a recruiting violation … could result in a sanction against an individual(s), team(s) and/or a club up to and including suspension, monetary fines and the inability to register a team with CHRVA."

Q. The method of making offers is defined as "a written promise of a position on a team that is presented to a player or the player's agent for acceptance or rejection." Is a club allowed to make verbal offers prior to the Open Tryout Period?

A. No. The rules explicitly preclude an offer being "made to any prospective player or the player's agent prior to the start of the 'Open Tryout Period' for the age group of that team." The purpose of this rule is to ensure that a prospective player does not feel any pressure to respond to the club and/or team recruiting the player. An "offer" implies that a player must accept or decline. A club may, however, inform a player when the club's CHRVA approved tryouts are being held. Any promises or notice of intent by a club to make an offer once the Open Tryout Period begins must be a written offer to the prospective player and the club may not seek the prospective player's intent on how he/she will respond to an offer prior to making such offer or seek a prospective player's commitment prior to the Open Tryout Period.

Q. Can I make early offers (before the Open Tryout Period) to players that were on my team last year and therefore still registered with my club?

A. No. The same rules apply to recruiting, offers and commitments whether the player played for that club and/or team the prior year or not.

Q. I am feeling pressure to let a coach know whether I will play for them next year. What should I do?

A. Remember, a coach is not allowed to seek the *intent* of a player prior to making an offer and is not allowed to seek a commitment prior to the Open Tryout Period. The purpose of the CHRVA recruiting policy is to allow players to evaluate their options prior to making a commitment.

Q. Once I attend tryouts, how long do I have to commit to a team?

A. Once an offer is made, that junior athlete's spot on the team is guaranteed only until the end of the "Open Tryout Period." A player or the player's agent may, however, accept an offered position *during* the "Open Tryout Period" if they choose.

Q. Are there any guidelines for accepting or rejecting offers?

A. CHRVA recommends that a player accept or reject an offer *in writing* as soon as a player is certain that he/she will or will not accept that particular offer. A common concern among clubs is that they often do not hear back about offers made until very near the end of the Open Tryout Period and often do not hear back from prospective players at all. Unfortunately, by this time, other players that would have received an offer may have been forced to accept an offer from a different club. This, in turn, trickles down to other clubs and other players causing a number of players to accept offers from clubs that are not their first choice and clubs without players to make offers. The purpose of the recruiting and tryout process is to best match players and clubs. As such, the sooner a player knows that it will not accept an offer from a club, the player should act in good faith and decline the offer so that club may open up that offer to another prospective player. For example, there is no reason for a player to retain more than two offers at a time. By the time a third offer is received, that player should be able to narrow down their choices to their top two offers.