

DELTA REGION VOLLEYBALL

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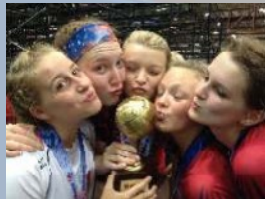
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Starting a Delta Region Junior Volleyball Program

You Have Started Down a Long and Rewarding Path





STARTING A JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM IN THE DELTA REGION

Thank you for reaching out to start a new program for juniors. Hopefully you are considering both boys and girls in this process. Note that this guidebook is simply a short collection of information to help get you started. For additional information and assistance with registration or forming your program, please contact the Delta Region Volleyball office and make sure to browse the USA Volleyball website @ <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Volleyball>

Joe Williams, Commissioner Delta Region

Starting a Junior Volleyball Program can be both a rewarding and a frustrating experience. The sources of the rewards are rather apparent – the opportunity to see those young people grow and develop, the excitement of athletic competition, and the joy of a job well done.

The challenges, on the other hand, can mostly be avoided by careful preseason planning which must then be carried out throughout the entire year. The majority of the frustrations arise not out of the players or the coaches, but the administrative details.

Key Points When Starting a Club in the Delta Region:

- 1) There is no charge for creating a volleyball club in the Delta Region.
- 2) Clubs must be located within the geographical boundaries of the region or in the region in which its club director resides.
- 3) Each club may have only one Club Director
- 4) Once you decide to start a program, you (Club Director) must first join USA Volleyball through the Delta Region as a “Regular” member and complete a background screening and SafeSport Training. Note: depending on the time of year, background screenings can take up to 2 weeks when properly filled out.
- 5) Next go to deltavolleyball.net and click on [CLUB APPLICATION](#) tab and submit your club information.
- 6) You can select additional Club Administrators to assist you with the Club HQ site. The individuals must be members, complete a background screening and take SafeSport training. Once this is completed, you can add the individual to a role with the club.
- 7) After your club is approved for sanction you will be contacted by SportsEngine to set up your Club HQ site. Read more about SportsEngine HQ on [the Club Director pages](#) at the Delta website.

Then you will need to keep in mind three initial hurdles:

Where Will You Practice?

The number of courts you will need will depend upon the number of teams operating in your program. Most coaches want at least one court per team. In addition, you will have to consider the number of hours you plan to practice. For example, practice times could vary from one evening per week to four times per week during the school year.

Sites for practices are limited only by the gym space available in your community. The site must have a properly sized and lined volleyball court and safe equipment. Places to begin looking include the local YMCA or YWCA, schools, churches and recreational centers.

USA Volleyball administers a medical and liability insurance program customized specifically for the sport of volleyball. It is designed to respond specifically to the inherent hazards of the sport. Offered as part of the sanctioning program, it is one of the most cost-effective policies available. The insurance documents contain ([CLICK HERE](#)) information regarding USA Volleyball administers a medical and liability insurance program customized specifically for the sport of volleyball. It is designed to respond specifically to the inherent hazards of the sport. Offered as part of the sanctioning program, it is one of the most cost-effective policies available. Volleyball insurance includes coverage for facilities ([CLICK HERE](#)). A copy of the certificate of insurance can be given to the facility owner if needed.

Who Will Coach?

The selection of the coach is one of the most critical decisions you will make in initiating a Junior Volleyball program. Coaches form the basis for the entire program. The coach, if possible, should have some experience in either coaching or at least playing volleyball. All coaches should be willing to learn! The coach should also understand the basics of first aid, because injuries do occur.

In searching for coaches, the most obvious place to start is with parents. However, parents frequently do not make the best coaches and conflicts can arise. Other places to look are at local colleges, both in terms of college coaches and players. High School coaches may also be available, although you and they need to be aware of any school league rules limiting the activities of coaches in your state. Adult players from your area may also provide you with a good source of coaches.

IMPACT TRAINING: USA Volleyball and the Delta Region currently have a minimum level coach education requirement in order to coach in a USAV Junior Volleyball Program. The IMPACT course is required for all USAV Junior Club Coaches. USAV National Office does not require a renewal of this course. IMPACT is offered **on-Demand and is FREE for members**. Completion of the IMPACT certification is mandatory for all Junior Club coaches PRIOR to being placed on a team roster. The course takes about 4-6 hours and includes a test at the conclusion of the course. Before a coach can be added to the team roster they must receive IMPACT certification.

SAFESPORT TRAINING: All adults & Junior players (who reach the age of 18 prior to July 1) involved in Junior Club Volleyball must take SafeSport training. The safety of its participants is of paramount importance to USA Volleyball. USA Volleyball has a ZERO TOLERANCE for abuse and misconduct. We all have a role to play in

providing a healthy setting for our sport. The USA Volleyball SafeSport Program raises awareness about possible misconduct in our sport, promotes open dialogue and provides training and resources. When we work as a team, we can build a plan to make volleyball safe—for everyone. Individuals are required to complete SafeSport training every year. SafeSport training takes about 90 minutes and is FREE for all USAV members. For information on how to take SafeSport training go to <https://www.deltavolleyball.net/page/show/4501770-take-safesport-training>.

BACKGROUNDSCREENING: Adults involved with Junior Clubs must pass a Background Screening. It is the policy of USA Volleyball and the Delta Region that any club/entity intending to hire or use registered individuals in any sanctioned junior volleyball events and/or activities will accept and abide by this background screening policy. The following individuals, 18 years of age or older, will be screened: Club directors, club administrators, team reps, coaches, chaperones, and trainers who intend to register, affiliate and/or participate with a USAV/RVA junior volleyball club or team. Any Junior Tournament Director/Site Director/On-site Tournament Administrator/Manager and official 18 or older who intend to work a junior sanctioned event will also be screened with the exception of a junior player. Background screenings must be repeated every two year; with a supplement screening every year. Cost for background screening is \$14.00. Non- USA citizen backgrounding fees cost considerable more, [CLICK HERE](#) for foreign adults with a club.

How Much Will It Cost?

One frequently made mistake is that the Junior Volleyball program is not treated as a business. Whether we like it or not, we are running a small business when we set up a Junior Volleyball program. Bills must be paid. The players have to either pay fees and/ or participate in fundraising activities. Separate checking accounts and closely detailed accounting should be kept. Programs should be incorporated to avoid tax problems.

In terms of the costs of the program, the cost per player can vary greatly from program to program depending upon the length of the season, the locations of competition, the amenities you offer the players and the amount of equipment you have to buy.

All individuals must register with USAV before coming to your tryouts to insure proper insurance coverage. Registration may be completed online by going to the Delta Region website.

BasicExpenses

There are two items that are certain to result in costs to the program:

- a. Each team must have similar uniforms – both shirts and shorts. When ordering uniforms, be sure to comply with the USAV uniform requirements, including the size and location of numbers on the front and back of jerseys. Numbers on the front of the shirt must be at least four (4) inches high and at least six (6) inches on the back. Numbers must be of contrasting colors to the shirt. Refer to the official officiating site of USA Volleyball, [Rulebooks and Interpretations - USA Volleyball](#) and the Domestic Competition Regulation book (rule book) for a complete list of uniform requirements.

- b. All tournaments have entry fees, which are listed on the tournament schedule (available on the Delta Region website: www.deltavolleyball.net). Tournament fees vary by tournament and region.

Other Possible Expenses

Additional items may add expenses to your program:

- a. You may choose to pay your coaches and/or cover their travel expenses.
- b. The practice gym may cost you money. If the facility you are using will charge you, this has to be included in your initial budget.
- c. You may need to purchase some equipment such as first aid kits, volleyballs and volleyball bags.
- d. Transportation may begin to cost money, depending on how far and how often you travel. Parents will usually provide transportation at no charge if they come to watch their children play. However, if you are going long distances, travel costs can add up quickly.
- e. Extra player benefits. These can be expensive but give a separate identity to your program. You may want to include benefits to the players such as warm-ups, volleyball publications, knee pads or shoes.

Fundraising Ideas

As explained above, there are expenses involved with running a junior program. Here are a few fundraising ideas to help you get started. You can be as creative as you want.

- a. Charge regular monthly dues
- b. Have a fund raiser (car wash, pancake breakfast, spaghetti dinner, sell coupon books, candy, etc.)
- c. Find a company to sponsor the team or several smaller merchants to contribute to the program. If you incorporate and apply for a non-profit organization status (these have fees associated with doing them), the donor's contributions may be tax deductible.
- d. If you have access to a nice facility (gym) with a good net system, the Delta Region is always looking for good facilities to rent for junior tournaments.
- e. Offer to have concessions at some of the tournaments (soda, sloppy joes, popcorn, candy, etc.).
- f. Ask if your team can be the site directors for a tournament.
- g. Host a tournament. In these last four options, contact the Delta Region office for assistance and information.

Selecting the Team

All members should register for a membership online through the region website: [Purchase a Membership](#)

Club Directors should set up a club Directory and then invite members through the Directory. ([CLICK HERE](#)) to learn more about the Club HQ, spend time watching the SE videos and reading the [Club Directory pages](#).

Types of Memberships Offered in the Delta Region

Several different memberships are offered in the Delta Region ([CLICK HERE](#)) for category memberships and fees.

Check the Delta Region website for the Junior Player Age Definitions ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Tryouts

Once you have found your practice site, selected your coaches and established a preliminary budget, you are ready to get started. If your team will be composed of players from your local high school or community, you may not want to have tryouts. However, if you are selecting players from various schools and communities, you may need to have tryouts.

Some high school associations have certain restrictions on players and coaches. Club Directors' must take the rules into consideration when hosting a tryout, practice or USA Volleyball event. Consult the State High School Association in your area before planning a practice or tryout.

It is imperative that all USA Volleyball sanctioned members and events comply with the high school regulations in every aspect. The Delta Region and USA Volleyball will not tolerate any action, whether intentional or unintentional, which will jeopardize the high school or college eligibility of these young athletes.

Below are links to each state's Activities Association.

ARKANSAS: ahsaa.org

MISSISSIPPI: misshsaa.com

TENNESSEE: tssaa.org

MISSOURI: mshsaa.org

All individuals must register with USAV before coming to your tryouts to insure proper insurance coverage. Registration may be completed online by going to the Delta Region website.

Notices can be posted in the area schools and mailed to area coaches and players. Local recreational centers and YMCA and youth facilities may also allow you to post notices. The local media may provide some form of free advertisement for your tryouts. Tryout information may also be published in the Delta Region newsletter or on your own club web pages.

Once you have set the date and location, be prepared. Before you even set foot in the gym, know what evaluation tests you will have the players perform, what equipment you will need, how many helpers you will need, and how many evaluators you will use. You should also have some idea of the type of player you want in your program, because you will probably have more players at tryouts than you can accommodate in your program.

In addition, plan for parents. Many will almost certainly be there. They will have questions about the costs and the commitment their child is making. Be prepared to answer those questions. It is a good idea to have a rough season schedule already prepared to hand out together with a rough preliminary budget.

The better organized the tryout; the better your program will look to those who are thinking of getting involved. For Best Practices suggestions to hold a tryout ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Additional Steps

Once you have selected your team, you have at least three more steps:

- a. First, how are you going to get the parents involved? Some junior programs have formal parent organizations or have parents involved in the organization on a Board of Directors basis. Others have extremely limited direct parent involvement. Some form of parent organization seems to provide a way to avoid the conflicts that will inevitably arise.
- b. You need to invite players that you have chosen to play for your club. In order to email the players to Accept an Assignment ([CLICK HERE](#)).
- c. Second, once all of this is accomplished, you can begin the process of setting up your team rosters in the online SportsEngine system.

Recap: Registering Your Club

Before Tryouts Begin, complete the following:

- **Complete your personal registration, background screening, and SafeSport training.**
- **Apply for Club Application online at <https://www.deltavolleyball.net/page/show/5947937-online-club-application>**
- **Contact SportsEngine to set up a Club HQ account**
- **Review the *Facility Rental Checklist* before signing a lease agreement for a site to host practices or events.** Protect yourself and your family from financial disaster by making sure you only host sanctioned events--in sanctioned facilities, with insurance provided under the USA Volleyball liability policy and sport accident policy. If the facility you are using needs proof of coverage, fill out online a *Certificate of Insurance Request Form*.
- **Complete Registration of All Club Staff, including coaches.** All Club Staff, including but not limited to, Coaches, Club Directors, Club Administrators, Trainers and Chaperones must be registered members of the Delta Region prior to interacting with players. This includes passing a background check and SafeSport training. If you have a new coach or staff member, have them register online immediately. The membership is not valid until a successful background screening is confirmed and SafeSport training is completed. Coaches have not completed all steps cannot participate in any practice or tryout.

- **Do not allow any athlete on the court without first registering with USAV. An unregistered athlete is a huge potential liability.** Non-registered individuals are not covered by USA Volleyball insurance.

Coach Training

Before coaches can be added to the team roster, they have to complete IMPACT & SafeSport training and cleared a background screening. IMPACT is a specialty course for all new coaches, and as of now, is a one-time certification; SafeSport training is required every year; and background screenings are required every two years. Refer to the Member Handbook for additional information.

Team's Officials Training

Each team in the Delta Region is required to have at least two certified referees (an adult has to be certified to R1~a player can be certified to R2), one certified scorer, one Libero tracker, and two certified line judges listed on the team roster. Please review each certification requirement outlined in the [Junior Club Official's tab](#) (found on the Delta Region website).

With the increasing expectation of quality officials for volleyball matches, it is the recommendation of the Delta Region Board of Directors that certified coaches or certified chaperones of Junior Teams accept the role of primary referee (R1) for their team. Junior Officials may serve as a secondary referee (R2). We believe that this is the best direction for us to take for the protection of the younger players and the integrity of the game. We encourage all Junior Programs to embrace this concept and participate fully as a club. NO PLAYERS SHOULD BE THE 'UP' R1 REFEREE IN COMPETITION.

Online SportsEngine Team Roster

After you have completed your registration and team selections, you should set up your team roster in your SportsEngine Club HQ. Instructions can be found on the [Club Director SportsEngine Help pages](#).

Choosing Where to Play

The Delta Region has two basic types of tournaments. Check the Delta Region website under the Junior Tournament Schedule tab for a list of tournaments.

- a. Regular one-day tournaments generally consist of pool play followed by playoffs.
- b. Multiple-day events generally consist of two to four days of pool play and playoffs.

Warning: some events fill quickly. It is suggested to decide on your event calendar early and enter events early (usually in early December).

To register for an event: Click on the Host link listed on the [Delta Region calendar](#). This will direct you to the individual tournament webpage or the Host home page where you will find tournament information and entry form. Please note: most events will use a system called AES for tournament entries. For additional information regarding AES and to set up a new account, go to <https://www.deltavolleyball.net/page/show/5947509-aes-instructions>

Events that do not AES will need a printed entry form, filled out in its entirety and attached to an online roster with a club check for the amount of the event. Then, mail directly to the tournament Host. You should receive acknowledgement that you are accepted into the event.

Additional Information

There are several guidebooks and manuals located on the Delta Region website that should help answer many of your questions, such as the Delta Region Member Handbook, Junior Officiating and the SportsEngine Admin Guidebook. The Club Director tab on the region website will have most of the forms you will need to get you started.

USA Volleyball's website, <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Volleyball>, has a Grassroots section where you can find lots of material to help you start your Club, train your athletes, inform your parents and educate your staff.

Good luck and have fun!

"By forming a Delta Region Junior Volleyball Program, you have started down a long and rewarding path. The Delta Region Office will provide as much support and assistance as you need. Remember to read the [Delta Region Member Handbook](#), [Junior Club Officiating](#) and the [SportsEngine Club Admin Guidebook](#) to know your club responsibilities and Delta Region policies, for players, coaches and parents."
Joe Williams, Delta Region Commissioner

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