



**2026-2027 season USA Volleyball - Gateway
Region Junior Tryout Information
Registration & Waiver Form**



YOUR RIGHTS

It is your responsibility to be aware of the Gateway tryout procedures. Violations by club administrators or coaches may be reported by the player or parent/guardian to the Junior Coordinator, who will then follow the Gateway Region Due Process Guidelines. An information sheet and FAQ sheet should be available at this tryout that addresses many of your concerns. Please ask for one if you have not received it. The information provided will include club history and philosophy, identify the coaches and their coaching credentials, expected estimated expenses and will also give you an idea of the commitment required of you and your child. Please read carefully so as to be truly informed before you commit to a particular club. **Please be aware there are NO Player Transfers granted after a player has committed (signed the Gateway Region commitment letter) to a team/club for the season and/or completed a registration process with a club and/or made payments towards a club's fees.**

NOTIFICATION / ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURE

A Binding Commitment Letter is available for club use to facilitate the Notification / Acceptance process. The purpose of the letter is to formally accept or decline a club offer, which may be prior to the official commitment dates and times listed below. Signing this letter is an OPTION for you and it is not mandatory. If you accept a club offer by signing the Binding Commitment Letter, you may not leave that club to represent another club during the season.

Coaches may let players know if they have been selected for an age division within their club at any time after their tryout. At that time, a coach can tell the player one of three things: 1. You have made a team.; 2. You are an alternate.; 3. You did not make a team.

For tryouts held on the first available weekend, the coach must allow a "waiting period" for the chosen athlete to make the decision on whether or not to commit, according to the following guidelines. If the tryout start date is Friday, **July 24, 2026**, the official commitment date/time is **1 pm Sunday, July 26, 2026**. If the tryout start date is Friday, **Sept 11, 2026**, the official commitment date/time is **1 pm Sunday, Sept 13, 2026**. If the tryout start date is Friday, **Oct 23, 2026**, the official commitment date/time is **1 pm Sunday, Oct 25, 2026**.

After 1pm on the Sunday of the 1st allowable tryout weekend, any offers made on Friday and Saturday can be voided. Open Roster Tryouts (Make up tryouts) may begin at 1pm on Sunday for players who are alternates or have not committed to a club/team. The commitment deadline for Open Roster Tryouts will be 7pm on the same Sunday, at which time offers made during this timeframe may be rescinded. If a coach makes an offer to a player, the offer cannot be rescinded unless a player declines an offer or does not respond by the commitment date/timeframes listed above. Rescinding an offer before the commitment dates/times listed for each applicable tryout period constitutes a recruiting violation by the coach and/or Club, which is a punishable offense under Gateway Region policies.

"Conditional offers" (offers made with a condition attached, such as "commit right now and we'll guarantee you ...") are likewise unethical and constitute a punishable recruiting violation. A "waiting period" is not required for clubs holding tryouts AFTER the official commitment dates and time defined above; the player may be asked to officially commit to the team immediately.

For tryouts held on the first available weekend, **a player essentially has 3 options** when the coach notifies them that they have been selected for a team: 1. Accept the offer*; 2. Reject the offer; 3. Use the "waiting period", according to the above guidelines and timeframes, before making their decision.

* The **optional** Binding Commitment Letter may be used to formalize the player's acceptance of an offer by a club. A player can choose to sign the letter or not; a coach or club administrator cannot mandate that a player sign this document. If a player accepts a club offer by signing the Binding Commitment Letter, the player may not leave that club to represent another club during the season.

In the event that a team has less than 6 committed players by 8am the Friday immediately following tryouts, the commitment letter (if signed by the player and parent/guardian/legal representative) will be voided and those players released to find another team. The club/team reserves the right to disband a team of less than 6 players before that Friday in the event they feel a team may not form.

Please fill out, read and sign this Waiver and Release Form. Detach and return to tryout coordinator.

Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone No: _____ Email: _____

Date of tryout: _____ Club Name: _____

I acknowledge that volleyball or any sporting event is an extreme test of a person's physical and mental limits and that my participation in a volleyball event can cause potential death, serious injury, or property damage. With a full understanding of the potential risks, I HEREBY ASSUME THE RISKS OF PARTICIPATING OR OFFICIATING IN A VOLLEYBALL EVENT.

I hereby take the following action for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, successors and assigns: a) I WAIVE, RELEASE, AND DISCHARGE from any and all claims or liabilities for death or personal injury or damages of any

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Our goal is to make this a positive experience for you, and your input will help. If you have any comments, please mail Chris Clauss, Junior Coordinator, 886 San Sebastian, Fenton, MO 63026 or email at cmwarner24@gmail.com

2026-27 TRYOUT DATES

Tryouts may not be held until 5pm **September 11** for boy's; 5pm **October 23** for girl's 8s, 9s, 10s, 11s, 12s, 13s and 14s; and 5pm **July 24** for girl's 15s, 16s, 17s and 18s.

Once a player has: 1) Been enrolled at a university, college, community college or junior college AND 2) Been cleared to participate by that (volleyball) program, then the player is ineligible to take part in any regional and national programming, which includes but is not limited to national JNC qualifying and championship events.

18 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2008 (including high school graduates eligible based on the above paragraph)

18 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2007 **and** a high school student in the twelfth (12th) grade or below during some part of the current academic year are eligible to compete on 18 and under teams.

17 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2009

17 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2008 (18 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the eleventh grade (11th) during the current academic year will be allowed to participate in the 17 and under age division. These players are still subject to frozen roster rules.

16 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2010

15 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2011

14 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2012

Boys 14 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2011 (15 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the eighth grade (8th) during the current academic year will be allowed to participate at the USA Junior National Championships on 14 and under teams. These players are still subject to frozen roster rules. (This is because the net height difference of 7'4 1/8" to 7' 11 5/8" between the 14 and Under Division to the 15 and Under Division.)

13 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2013

Boys 13 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2012 (14 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the seventh grade (7th) during the current academic year are eligible for a Region approved waiver to compete in the boys 13's age group. This age waiver is still subject to frozen roster rules.

12 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2014

Boys 12 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2013 (13 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the sixth grade (6th) during the current academic year are eligible for a Region approved waiver to compete in the boys 12's age group. This age waiver is still subject to frozen roster rules.

11 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2015

10 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2016

9 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2017

8 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2018

Note: These age definitions are used by domestic club programs and are NOT the same as the age definitions for International Competition and Domestic National Team Development Programs.

The Age Definition Policy was most recently revised by the USA Volleyball Board of Directors on May 27, 2025.

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OF PERSONS OR ENTITIES LISTED BELOW, which arise out of or relate to my traveling to and from or my participation in any volleyball event, THE FOLLOWING PERSONS OR ENTITIES: USA Volleyball and its Regional Volleyball Associations, tournament directors, sponsors, and the officers, directors, employees, representatives, and agents of any of the above; b) I AGREE NOT TO SUE any of the persons or entities listed above for any of the claims or liabilities that I have waived, released or discharged herein; and c) I INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS the persons or entities mentioned above from any claims made or liabilities assessed against them as a result of my actions.

Participant's Signature (regardless of age) _____ Date Signed _____

If applicant is under eighteen (18) years of age, a parent or guardian must execute, in addition to the foregoing Waiver and Release, the following, for and on behalf of the minor.

The undersigned parent and natural guardian or legal guardian of the applicant (_____ [minor's name]) executes the foregoing Waiver and Release for and on behalf of the minor named herein. I hereby bind myself, the minor and all other assigns to the terms of the Waiver and Release. I represent that I have legal capacity and authority to act for and on behalf of the minor named herein, and I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the persons or entities named in the Waiver and Release for any claims or liabilities assessed against them as a result of any insufficiency of my legal capacity or authority to act for and on behalf of the minor in the execution of the Waiver and Release. I fully consent to my child's participation in RVA/USAV events.

Printed Name _____ Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date Signed _____