

Ontario Volleyball Association High Performance League



HPL Athlete Selection Policy

June 2019



This document is meant to detail the athlete selection process for HPL teams. This process is designed to allow the top athletes to find a spot on a HPL team. It achieves this objective by creating a separate athlete selection window that is separate from the regular OVA club tryout process and that takes place before any other tryouts.

An early HPL athlete selection process means the top players who usually receive offers from multiple clubs won't be available anymore, which will simplify the tryout process for other clubs afterwards.

1. Athlete Application

All athletes interested in being selected to a HPL team during the HPL Selection Period have to submit an application form and submit it before June 4th, 2020 at 11:59pm. The form includes the following information:

Athlete information

- First name and last name
- Parents names and contact information
- Physical testing results (most recent)
- Etc

Volleyball Information

- Position
- Past clubs
- Participation in HP programs

Team Selection and Ranking

- In their application, athletes must identify the HPL teams they would like to be considered for. Athletes can select as many teams as they want as long as:
 - The teams are located within 100km of the athlete's main residence
 - They are willing to accept an offer from each club they select
- Athletes can consult the HPL teams' *Athlete Information Package* in order to find out more about the clubs and make a decision as to where they would like to play.
- Athletes are allowed to attend practice sessions with various HPL teams between May 23rd and June 4th, 2020 and are allowed to get in touch with the coaches of the HPL teams in order to get more information after May 23rd.

2. Athlete Residency

- No HPL team has exclusive access to athletes residing in any geographical zones or regions.
- No athletes can play for a HPL team located over 100km from their main residence. (Exemptions may be granted with the expressed written permission of the OVA in exceptional circumstances)
- Where possible, athletes should play for the HPL team located closest to them. In the event that an athlete is travelling a long distance to join a HPL team, the athlete must be able to commit to and maintain the weekly training schedule outlined by their HPL team.
- HPL teams shall not unreasonably grant preference to local resident athletes, nor shall they aggressively recruit talent from surrounding regions at the expense of local playing talent.
- In areas where there are few HPL teams commensurate to athlete volume, HPL teams shall select athletes based on playing ability as a priority
- Athletes from remote locations may request an exemption. Each case will be assessed separately.

3. HPL Selection Period

- The HPL Selection Period starts on May 25th, 2020 when clubs can start having discussions with prospective athletes. Training sessions are allowed at that point if necessary.
- HPL teams will receive the final list of available athletes and their *HPL Application Form* on June 5th, 2020. This form will include the athlete's interest in each team.
- Teams are allowed to start offering spots on their roster on June 6th, 2020 using the HPL offer form. Offers can be sent and returned at any time. However, offers must be honored for 36 hours from the time indicated on the offer form.
- From June 6th to June 21st, teams can only send offers to athletes who have indicated they are interested in receiving an offer from them in their *HPL Application form*
- Starting on June 22nd, teams can send offers to any athletes who have indicated they are interested in receiving an offer from them. The expression of interest must have been received in writing prior to sending the offer.
- Clubs will be responsible for providing a list of signed athletes to the OVA for posting on the website by June 22nd. Clubs that sign athletes after June 22nd

- must notify the OVA within 2 business days of the offer's acceptance by the athlete
- Clubs are permitted to collect non-refundable deposits for club fees from signed athletes once they have accepted an offer.
 - Online registration will be made available beginning September 1 for signed athletes.
 - Athletes are permitted to begin team activities once they have accepted an offer.
 - Teams can select any number of athletes during the HPL Selection Period as long as they respect the HPL roster requirements (see section 6 of the HPL Technical Manual)
 - The roster submission deadline is September 20th, 2020

4. Athlete Commitment

- Selected athletes commit to a HPL team by completing and signing the *HPL Athlete Commitment Letter*
 - The *Athlete Commitment Letter* may not be altered or added to in any way by any of the signing parties
 - Completion and signing of the *Athlete Commitment Letter* binds a athlete to a HPL team for the upcoming season before roster submission deadline
 - Revoking a Athlete Commitment may only be permitted with the expressed written permission of the OVA

5. Athlete Transfer

- HPL athletes shall not transfer to another HPL team or to a regular team once the *Athlete Commitment Form* is completed and signed
- Transfers may be granted with the written permission of the OVA in exceptional circumstances such as, but not limited to:
 - Primary residence changes out of reasonable travel area
 - HPL team folds or gets out of the HPL
 - Criminal investigations and/or convictions within the present club
- Transfers within the HPL will be treated the same way as transfers between regular teams and that process will be subject to the provisions contained in the *OVA Athlete Transfer Policy*
- No athlete may be transferred more than once in any given season