



ECVA Volleyball FAQ

- **Why should we join the ECVA?**
 - Because it's fun! Being in a league makes the collegiate club volleyball experience a little more organized and legit. We are all former club players and officers who know how great club volleyball can be and how thankless it often is, so we do all of the organizational work, hire certified refs for every match, offer awards, and more.
 - Being in a league helps ensure your eligibility for NCVF nationals and helps with national ranking/seeding.
 - It's fun to establish traditional rivalries as teams compete for divisional and league championships!
- **How much does it cost?**
 - For men's teams, the registration fee is \$875 per team, as long as you register prior to December 1st. It's \$975 after December 1st. For women's teams, we are offering a promotional discount rate of just \$725 if you register by December 1st. It's \$875 after that.
- **Can we get reimbursed if things don't work out?**
 - Yes! We will gladly reimburse you as long as your club is operating in good faith and not dropping out of events at the last minute.
- **Is joining the league only for teams that go to NCVF Nationals?**
 - No. There's over 1,000 collegiate club teams across the country, and roughly half of them go to nationals. Since going to nationals is expensive and not mandatory, a lot of teams just play within their leagues.
- **Does participating in the ECVA make us eligible for NCVF Nationals, or do we need to play in additional "ranking tournaments" to become eligible?**
 - Yes, participating in the ECVA automatically makes you eligible for nationals if you play in at least 8 league matches. No, you don't *need* to compete in additional tournaments (although many teams do, simply to get more reps). Note that there are three types of NCVF events: League Events (the gold standard), Regulation Events (which may or may not count depending on whether they meet NCVF Best Practice criteria), and Fellowship Events (which generally don't count for anything). We encourage all teams to play in their required league events but also save at least one weekend to play in a non-league Regulation Event. That maximizes a team's chances of getting seeded appropriately at nationals.
- **Is there a separate fee to go to NCVF Nationals?**
 - Yes, the \$950 entry fee for nationals is totally separate. Our league will, however, pay your \$50 NCVF account activation fee for you, so there's no need to pay for that on your own.

- **What does the league schedule look like?**
 - All teams are placed into divisions based on geographic location. Teams compete in an event called the “Divisional Play Date” (typically held in February) + a Divisional Championship (typically held in March) + the East Coast Championship tournament (for qualifying teams only; typically held in early April).

- **Where will the events be?**
 - Each year, we survey teams to see who might be interested in hosting. Interested teams submit a hosting application, in which they specify the date(s) they would like to host, how many courts they have, etc. Our league administrators review the available options and pick dates and locations that are most accessible for the majority of teams in each division.

- **If we wanted to host an event, how would that work?**
 - Hosting an event is a great way to conserve costs and make money for your club. Clubs that host get to save on travel costs, while the ECVA does all of the administrative work (communicating with teams, creating the schedule, hiring & paying refs, reporting results, facilitating awards, etc.). The league also pays each host club a stipend of \$400 and will cover 50% of any other necessary expenses (such as trainers, facility fees, etc.). Host clubs cannot charge an entry fee for participating teams, but they can charge spectator admission fees and run concession stands to earn additional income.

- **How many matches will we get to play?**
 - All teams are guaranteed a bare minimum of 6 matches (3 at each of the two divisional events), but most teams play upwards of 10 matches. Teams that qualify for the East Coast Championships play as many as 16 league matches when all is said and done.

- **What is the minimum number of teams that will be in each division?**
 - We know that our women’s league is new and we will have to start somewhere if we’re going to build it. We’ll try to move forward as long as each division has at least 4 teams, but we’re hoping each one will have a minimum of 8.

- **How many teams qualify for the East Coast Championship?**
 - We invite the top 4 teams from each division. We’ll invite more if facility space allows.

- **Is there an additional entry fee to play in the East Coast Championship?**
 - No! It’s free for teams that qualify based on their results from the divisional events.

- **What do we get if we win the league?**
 - League champions get \$1,000, medals, trophies, plus swag from our sponsors when available.

- **Is participation mandatory?**

- o We understand that teams sometimes cannot participate in events. We're not interested in penalizing anyone. We just ask that you communicate early (ie. at least 72 hours in advance) if your team needs to drop out of an event.
- **Can we register an A and a B team?**
 - o Yes! Some of the schools in our men's league register an A, B, and C team! Generally, all A teams play in Division 1, and all B and C teams play in Division 2. We may or may not do it the same way in the women's divisions; it will depend on the number of teams we have. If we have enough B teams and smaller schools to form a separate division for them, we'll do that.
- **What responsibilities do we have once we register?**
 - o None! Just be sure to keep your regular season roster updated on VBreg, confirm your attendance for your divisional events by communicating with your Divisional Director, and then show up and play. We'll do all the rest!