



## **ADVICE FOR PICKING A CLUB**

*2020-2021 Season*

Choosing which club to participate with is a family decision, one that takes a lot of research. Club volleyball is an investment in both time and money, so families need to make sure to find the best fit for their player. Below are some suggestions to keep in mind when picking a club.

***You are advised to do your research on clubs well before tryouts are scheduled. **DO YOUR HOMEWORK.*****

### ***CHECK THE CLUB DIRECTORY***

Go to [www.cevaregion.org](http://www.cevaregion.org), then click on the "Girls" tab, then click "Club Directory." This will show you a list of all clubs who are active in the CEVA region for the current season, and where they're located. You can click on any of the club names to find more information about them, such as what age groups they offer, who to contact, and their online information (i.e. website, social media). CEVA also has a Boys Club Directory online (under the "Boys" tab on the website).

### ***COME UP WITH A LIST OF QUESTIONS***

When talking to a representative of the club, or even just to people you know who've participated with a club, you need to ask the right questions in order to gather the information you need. Here are some examples of the questions you may want to ask:

- How much are the club dues? What are the club dues intended to cover? (Ask for an itemized list.)
- How often does the team practice? Where?
- Does the team travel to tournaments out of our region?
- Will the team practice or play over school holidays, such as Christmas Break or Spring Break?
- Who will the club hire as coaches, and what are their credentials?
- How many players and coaches will generally be assigned to each team?
- What's the club's philosophy? (i.e. winning vs. equal playing time)
- Does the club offer scholarships or opportunities to fundraise to help offset club dues?
- How does the club's tryout operate? Will it run all day? Do players have to make a commitment to a team immediately on the day of tryouts if offered? If a player accepts an offer at tryouts, what sort of down payment or deposit will our family be responsible for at that time?
- Will the club make accommodations if my player is a multi-sport athlete or has conflicts with high school sports?
- If your player is interested in playing in college, can the club help with the recruiting process?

### ***DO RESEARCH ON YOUR OWN***

Check out the websites and social media of clubs in your area, and start to come up with a list of clubs that may be possibilities for your player.

Read up on how many teams each club had in a particular age division last year, or how many they plan to have this year. Check out the schedules from years past to get an idea of how many tournaments per month they play in.



Find the club's handbook and read through it. Make sure you understand their policies.

Talk to friends, classmates, and other families who have played club volleyball in the past. Ask them about their experiences with certain clubs. Ask them about how tryouts work, and about the commitment required to play club volleyball.

### ***DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS***

You know what they say when you "assume" something. Well, don't assume anything in the process of selecting a club.

- Don't assume a more expensive club will provide a better opportunity than a less expensive club
- Don't assume the club that is right for a friend or classmate is right for you
- Don't assume a paid coach is better than a volunteer coach

Go into the process with an open mind and gather as much factual information as you can.

### ***REACH OUT TO CLUBS***

The vast majority of club directors welcome conversations with parents and players who may be interested in playing. Reach out to them via e-mail or phone and start the conversation with them. Ask them questions from the list you've made, and get as much information as possible so you can make an informed decision. You can always ask a club director for an in-person meeting as well, depending on their schedules and yours.

### ***GET READY FOR TRYOUTS***

Remember that a lot of clubs will have tryouts scheduled at the same time, so it's important to pick and attend the tryout(s) of the clubs that appear to be the best fit for your player. Tryouts can be stressful. Encourage your player to do their best, exhibit a great attitude, and be a positive role model to others in the gym. Coaches will notice attitude just as much as they'll notice talent.

Always ask ahead of time if players will be required to accept an offer of a spot on a club team at tryouts, if they will have any time to make their decision, or attend other tryouts. Ask how long a tryout will last, and if there will be any make-up tryouts after the initial one.

***CEVA does not regulate the process by which clubs select their players. CEVA tells clubs what date they may legally begin to conduct tryouts. However, CEVA does not legislate if clubs require players to accept offers on site, how many players are selected for a team, or if clubs schedule tryouts at the same time as other clubs.***