



GEVA Juniors Parent Information Guide

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 About the Region

The Garden Empire Volleyball Association (GEVA) is the local Regional Volleyball Authority of USA Volleyball, the National Governing Body of Volleyball, and as such is responsible for the promotion and growth of volleyball in New Jersey, Long Island, and the Greater Metropolitan Area of New York City (to include Westchester, Rockland, Dutchess, Putnam, and Orange Counties).

GEVA promotes volleyball by offering competition, training, and education in a multitude of disciplines. We authorize clubs who in turn offer training programs, and competitive opportunities on many levels. We authorize and conduct indoor tournaments throughout the fall & winter months and authorize outdoor, beach and grass tournaments in the spring & summer months. GEVA conducts Adult and Junior Division programs including Junior High Performance and Paralympic Volleyball.

Tournaments are held on weekends at various venues throughout the region and usually last all day. A team can expect to play at least eight sets per tournament; more should they advance to the playoffs.

GEVA offers four skill levels for Adult Men and Women (AA, A, BB, B) GEVA offers age level competition for Junior Boys and Girls (single age groups starting at 10).

GEVA also has a variety of opportunities for officiating from training the novice to advancing the professional development of all.

1.2 Content Changes / Revisions

Content in this document is subject to change upon review and approval of the GEVA Junior Competition Committee. Any policy revisions or clarifications published to the GEVA website will supersede the contents of this document based on date/timestamp of the publication.

2.0 Parents Guide to Club Volleyball

2.1 Choosing a Club

Choosing a volleyball club is a difficult decision. It is a serious commitment in both time and money. This guide is intended to help your family make an educated decision about selecting an appropriate club or team for your player. You will want to contact prospective clubs and coaches and ask at a minimum the following questions:

- What is the primary goal of the club - is it competitive, recreational, or developmental training?
- What are the projected fees and what do they cover (gym costs, coach stipends, club dues, uniforms etc.)?
- If the team travels to out of town tournaments, who covers the coach's expenses (traveling costs, hotels, meals). Are travel fees separate, or included, and are there any other additional costs? Tabulate all fees to compare costs between clubs.
- How many practices are held per week; when, where, and how long?
- Does the practice schedule change or remain the same through the season?
- What are the expectations of the club with regard to the commitment from the player? What happens if I miss a practice or tournament - possibly due to other sports, sickness, or religious events?
- Are practices held during major holidays - if so what days and times?
- Is other training expected, or available, and at what time and cost?
- Will the team participate in local, regional or national level tournaments? How many and when will the schedule be confirmed?
- Is the team an open or club level team and will the team participate in National Qualifiers, National Championships, or other end of Season Tournaments? If so, what are the additional costs?
- What are the travel policies - does the player travel with the team or with parents?

2.2 Other Important Questions to Ask

- Who will be the coach of my team and what are their credentials and experience? *One of the most important elements of club volleyball is the nature and quality of the coaching your child will receive.*

- How many players will be on the team, what spots have been filled and how many are available?
- How does the selection process work? How will I be notified?
- How long is the spot held and when do I have to make a decision? (By GEVA policy you always have at least 3 days to accept an offer. Please refer to the GEVA Recruiting and Commitment Policy for more information.)
- What is the club or team policy on playing time? (equal, shared, performance only, play to win, etc.)
- Will players and/or parents be expected to participate in fundraising activities? If so get details on the financial commitment and time requirements.
- Are their written policies and procedures and is there a process to address and escalate complaints?

2.3 Considerations

Parents should consider the goal of your child's experience playing club volleyball. Are they playing for health and recreation, more experience for high school play or possibly a college scholarship? Although college coaches attend some major events, getting recruited is more about self-marketing than "being discovered". Knowing where the coaches from colleges you want to attend will be recruiting or available, is just as important as going to events that you perceive the coaches will be attending.

As a parent of a volleyball player, you have a shared responsibility with the player and club. Other than providing financial support you may be called on to be a team parent or chaperone or to assist with transportation of teammates. You will also help by showing and encouraging good sportsmanship and responsible behavior. Parents should be careful of behaviors that are detrimental to the team. Look at both teams on the court, not just your player.

Clubs are obligated to deliver what they promise and treat players and parents with dignity and respect. They must help ensure that the adults involved with your child are positive role models. Please keep in mind that clubs are independent businesses and need to balance their needs with the needs of all of the club members. There is no one type of club that is appropriate for everyone and you should feel confident that you will find an appropriate match for your player. Do not get pressured into making a hasty decision - talk to other clubs and parents.

View each club's offerings as a product; shop for what fits your player and your family needs.

USA Volleyball prohibits player transfers from club to club, which is necessary to protect players, their teammates, and their clubs. In choosing a club, carefully consider your goals with potential clubs' emphasis on elite teams versus developmental, teams offered, cost, practice quantity and quality, number of coaches and their qualifications, distance to tournaments, length of the season, playing time, and tournament schedule.

Most clubs will require that you sign a contract. The contract may be a legally binding agreement between the club and you, the parent(s) or guardian(s) of a junior player. Read and understand what you are committing before signing! Please be aware that what GEVA regards as a *binding commitment* is completely separate from any legal contract or agreement which you sign with a club. See the GEVA Recruiting and Commitment Policy for more information.

2.4 Conclusion

Choosing a club is serious business; a bad decision can make for a very long season. A little time researching your options and opportunities may lead to a more rewarding club volleyball experience. Remember to review the GEVA Recruiting and Commitment Policy and be sure to ask a lot of questions. If a club operates outside these guidelines or is hesitant to answer these questions or provide written policies it is probably best to move on. Remember volleyball is supposed to be FUN!

3.0 Recruiting and Commitment Policy

3.1 Before Accepting a Clubs Offer

This Policy section as well as the preceding section: Parents Guide to Club Volleyball must be read before accepting any offer.

Your signature with a club reflects your acceptance of these policies.

3.2 Player Registration

Players must first register and pay USA Volleyball (USAV) membership fees for the season through the Webpoint system (<http://geva.org/registration>). You must give a copy of your USAV Membership Card to each club for which you tryout - be aware that clubs usually have a separate tryout fee that is not covered by your USAV membership.

3.3 Tryouts

Clubs are independent businesses and in an effort to balance the needs of what are best for players and their families with those of the clubs and its members; GEVA has adopted the following policies:

To allow for an equal playing field while not affecting the academic volleyball season, GEVA will only authorize tryouts on or after:

Boys - Friday - September 7th, 2018

Girls - Friday - November 2nd, 2018

Junior clubs may hold their tryouts at any time during the Recruiting season, but if the tryouts are before the approved authorization dates they are not covered by USAV insurance, nor are any commitments recognized as binding by GEVA. Offers for spots on a team will often be made during or following these tryouts.

3.4 Binding Commitment

The GEVA policy for offers and binding commitments, for the season, is as follows:

1. Clubs may make offers at anytime based on any criteria of their choosing; but, it is suggested offers be made for a specific team.
2. Club Directors should not put undue pressure on families to make a commitment. Threats of not finding a place to play, excessive phone calls, disparaging other clubs, and promises of college scholarships are just a few examples of inappropriate pressure.
3. Offers may be written, in digital form or posted on a website as long as an unambiguous dated offer can be produced if questioned. Once an offer is made, it **MUST** be valid for at least 3 days (1+3 rule). This means the day of the offer plus 3 full days.
 - 3.1. The policy **is not a 72-hour** policy.
 - 3.2. The Policy **is a 1+3 policy** that counts the day of the offer as the 1st day. There are then three additional full twenty-four hour days that the offer must remain open. After (11:59pm) effectively Midnight on the third full day, any accepted offer is recognized as binding by GEVA.
 - 3.3. GEVA only stipulates the minimum amount of time an offer must remain open, it does not regulate the length of time that the clubs may leave the offer open after the minimum time span has expired. Any club can set additional time for athletes to decide, and some do, but they all must adhere to the minimum 1+3 rule.
 - 3.4. Bottom line is that the clubs need to adhere to the minimum standard. If they want to allow you extra time, that is up to them. If you are pressured to sign, that is coming from the club, not from GEVA.
4. Signings may take place at any time, but are only recognized as valid by GEVA after the completion of the third full day of offer period.
 - 4.1. For example, the first day of official offers is Nov 4th. You will have Nov 4th plus 5th, 6th, 7th as part of the offering period. Binding commitments are not valid until 12:01am on Nov 8th (in this example).
 - 4.2. Acceptance of an offer must be in writing or via dated verifiable electronic means, with a signature from an adult parent or guardian.
 - 4.3. In addition clubs obtain a signature of acceptance for the GEVA Recruiting and Commitment Policy that will be kept on file.
5. An acceptance of an offer is considered to be a *binding GEVA commitment* upon:

Receipt by the offering Registered Active GEVA Club of:

- 1) A signature of acceptance to a dated offer letter.
- 2) A signature of acceptance to the GEVA Recruiting and Commitment Policy.
- 3) Payment of any portion of the club fees (not including the tryout fee).

The first date for binding commitments:

Boys – Tuesday – September 11th, 2018

Girls – Tuesday – November 6th, 2018

Both rules are satisfied.

3.5 Penalties for Commitment Violations

The Junior Competition Committee will assess Penalties for violating any of the above rules with up to a \$1000 penalty and other disciplinary action.

Violations of the above code must be filed by Dec 5th or 14 days after accepting an offer (whichever is later).

Please remember that once you have made a *binding commitment* to a club, you are committed to them for the season. They have reserved a spot on a team (possibly turning away another athlete) and you have committed to meeting your obligations per the club's offer letter. Failure to meet a contractually obligated financial commitment to a club will mean that you may not be able to register to play for any USAV club the following season(s).

Once you and your parents have made a *binding commitment* to play with a club, as described above, you are not allowed to attend tryouts at any other club.

3.6 Contracts and Recruiting Season

GEVA follows USAV guidelines to separate the year into two distinct phases: a Contract Season and a Recruiting Season. The Contract Season begins with a *binding commitment* and runs through the last day of competition of the USA Volleyball Junior National Championships (Boys - BJNC & Girls – GJNC) or High Performance Camps or Championships if participating. The Recruiting Season begins the day after the last day of the JNC and continues until you make a binding commitment the next season (the earliest date a player can make a non-binding commitment is September 1st of the year in question).

GEVA highly recommends that contact(s) by club directors and coaches during the Recruiting Season, be done on a **limited and highly professional basis**.

Club Coaches should be considerate of high school competitions by asking the coach when is the best time, if any, to distribute their literature and not attempting to contact players during a competition. Remember, most if not all public and private schools have non-solicitation policies that you are required to abide by. No recruiting is allowed of players under a *binding commitment*, or their parents, during the Contract Season.

Any player or parent has the right to stop the recruiting process at any time. The decision to do this does not need to be based on harassment alone. If a player or parent has made the decision to play or not to play for a particular club long before the beginning of the season and wishes not to be contacted by other clubs, they should convey that to any person contacting them about joining another club -- preferably in writing. At that time, the party who contacted the player is obligated to cease all contact. If the contact continues, by any agent of the club, the player or parent should contact their GEVA Area Representative. GEVA will gladly step in to protect its members from unwanted contact or harassment.

4.0 USAV Age Definitions

4.1 Definitions of Age Divisions



USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR PLAYER AGE DEFINITION For use during the 2018-2019 Season

Once a player participates (including but not limited to practicing, training, attending workouts and/or competing) in a club or varsity program for any university, college, community college, or junior college, he/she 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 September 1, 2000

or

Players who were born on or after September 1, 1999 **and** a high school student in the twelfth (12th) grade or below during some part of the current academic year

17 and Under Division:

Players who were born on or after September 1, 2001

16 and Under Division:

Players who were born on or after September 1, 2002

15 and Under Division:

Players who were born on or after September 1, 2003

14 and Under Division:

Players who were born on or after September 1, 2004

13 and Under Division:

Players who were born on or after September 1, 2005

12 and Under Division:

Players who were born on or after September 1, 2006

11 and Under Division:

Players who were born on or after September 1, 2007

10 and Under Division:

Players who were born on or after September 1, 2008

9 and Under Division:

Players who were born on or after September 1, 2009

8 and Under Division:

Players who were born on or after September 1, 2010

Boys 14 and Under Division:

Regionally waived boys teams in the 14 and under age group will be allowed to participate at the USA Junior National Championships using the following age/grade definition:

Players who were born on or after September 1, 2004

or

Players who were born on or after September 1, 2003 (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. (This exception is based on 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.)

Note: These age definitions are used by domestic club programs and are **NOT** the same as the age definitions for the International and Domestic High Performance programs for 2019.

The Age Definition Policy was most recently revised by the USA Volleyball Board of Directors on January 19, 2002.

The classification cut-off date of September 1 was reviewed by the USAV Junior Assembly and the USA Regional Volleyball Association Assembly prior and during the USAV 2016 Annual Meetings and research justified the continuation of the cut-off date of September 1.

4.2 Age Chart



USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR PLAYER AGE DEFINITION For use during the 2016-2017 Season

To determine the correct age division, please find the Month of Birth in the left column and then the year of birth in the same row. The heading of the column matching the Year of Birth is the correct age bracket.

	18 & Under ¹	18 & Under	17 & Under	16 & Under	15 & Under ²	14 & Under	13 & Under	12 & Under	11 & Under	10 & Under	9 & Under	8 & Under
Sept	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Oct	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Nov	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Dec	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Jan	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Feb	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Mar	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Apr	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
May	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
June	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
July	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Aug	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009

¹ Players who were born on or after September 1, 1998 OR players who were born on or after September 1, 1997 and a high school student in the twelfth (12th) grade or below during some part of the current academic year.

² **Male Only** - Players who were born on or after September 1, 2002 OR players who were born on or after September 1, 2001 (15 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the eighth (8th) grade during the current academic year are eligible to play in the 14 & Under division. This exception is based on 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.

The Age Definition Policy was most recently revised by the USA Volleyball Board of Directors on January 19, 2002.

The classification cut-off date of September 1 was reviewed by the USAV Junior Assembly and the USA Regional Volleyball Association Assembly prior and during the USAV 2016 Annual Meetings and research justified the continuation of the cut-off date of September 1.

5.0 Parent / Spectator Policy

5.1 Entry into Events / Facilities

IMPORTANT NOTICE – Entry into this Privately Authorized Event is granted as a courtesy. GEVA and the Facility reserve the right to Non-Discriminately Refuse entry to any person or persons. If you enter to attend this GEVA Region Authorized event, you are agreeing to abide by the code of conduct and facility guidelines.

Without regard to the perception that events are being held in Public Facilities, the facilities are contracted to GEVA and GEVA controls the admittance guidelines and rules.

5.2 Conduct

How to Behave:

- ✓ I will abide by the official rules of USA Volleyball and the GEVA Region.
- ✓ I will display good sportsmanship at all times.
- ✓ I will encourage my child, and their team as well as all participants without regard to the outcome on the court.
- ✓ I will acknowledge effort and good performance, remembering that all of the players in this event are amateur athletes and someone's child
- ✓ I will honor the rules of the host and the host facility.
- ✓ I will generate goodwill by being polite and respectful to those around me at this event.
- ✓ I will redirect any negative comments from others to the Site Director.
- ✓ I will notify the Site Director in the event that I witness any illegal activity.
- ✓ I will support the policies and guidelines of the team and club that I represent.
- ✓ I will model exemplary spectator behavior while attending this event.
- ✓ I will respect the tradition of the sport of volleyball by being a good ambassador.

How Not to Behave:

- ✓ I will not harass or intimidate the officials, line judges, or score table personnel.
- ✓ I will not coach my child from the bleachers or sidelines.
- ✓ I will not criticize my child's coach or their teammates.
- ✓ I will not participate on the court without being a current GEVA USA member on a Junior Roster.
- ✓ I will not bring or carry any illegal items or material in a GEVA Region event.
- ✓ I will refrain from bringing or consuming alcohol, tobacco, or any illegal substances or using inappropriate language at any Youth / Junior Volleyball event.

Note: Any violation of this Code of Conduct will result in you being asked to leave the site/facility, and may result in you possibly being banned from attending future GEVA Region Authorized Events. Any on-site GEVA Administrator and/or the Tournament / Site Director have the final say regarding their individual event. Local law enforcement will be contacted if necessary to resolve any disputes or altercations.

6.0 References

6.1 GEVA Websites and Quicklinks

GEVA Juniors Page: <http://www.geva.org/juniors>

GEVA Junior Clubs: <http://www.geva.org/page/show/948470-club-listing-information>

GEVA Event Locations: <http://www.geva.org/locations>

GEVA Tournament Schedules: <http://www.geva.org/page/show/937964-junior-event-schedules-and-results>

GEVA High Performance: <http://www.geva.org/hp>

GEVA Membership Registration: <http://www.geva.org/registration>

USA Volleyball: <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Volleyball.aspx>

6.2 Social Media Quicklinks

GEVA Juniors Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gevajuniors>

GEVA Juniors Twitter: <https://twitter.com/GEVAjuniors>

GEVA Juniors Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/gevajuniors/>

7.0 Violations

Please report all suspected violations of any USAV or GEVA policy to your regional director and with the GEVA Incident Report found on the GEVA website.

Questions or concerns may be directed to the GEVA Region – Junior Division office.

H

7.1 GEVA Region Hold Policy

USAV Webpoint registration as “current” is required for participation in any USAV/GEVA sanctioned event or approval for any administrative position.

In certain instances registration or renewal through USAV Webpoint will be declined until a pending "Region Hold" is resolved.

Possible reasons for the imposition of a Region Hold may include:

- 1) Member accounts that carry past due assessments, as well as nonpayment of Club Fees
- 2) The imposition of "immediate automatic sanctions" in accordance with the USA Volleyball and GEVA Bylaws
- 3) Other circumstances requiring the immediate imposition of a Region Hold necessary to protect the interests of GEVA. These circumstances will require prior review and approval of the Executive Committee.

Any Regional Hold imposed will require verifiable notification.

Upon resolution of any outstanding issues as set forth above, a Region Hold shall be vacated.

Any attempt to create an unauthorized registration is grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including suspension.

Additional procedural guidelines are contained in specific divisional operations documentation.

During any current season, under extenuating circumstance, the above actions may be requested. Those requests will follow a procedure outlined for that purpose.

Note 1: Region Hold is a category of membership used by the Region to temporarily remove the individual member's privilege of participating in authorized competitions or other region authorized events, or conducting business or other club activities as a Club Director or Administrator.

The Region Hold does not suspend a current membership, but may affect the possibility of renewal.

Note: All regions of USAV recognize and respect Region Holds from other Member Regions.