

# RMR Junior Boys Division (updated 6.15.25 for the 25-26 Season)

## Boys Season Overview

**Note:** There are only two changes to this document compared to the May 30th version.

The first change is that the Boys Division opted out of using the new OCS "portal" system.

The second change appears in paragraph 7, (highlighted in yellow), where we clarify that only **returning** players may receive offers during OpenGym / Evaluation periods.

### **In short:**

- New "second" evaluation period (announced May 30) runs July 14-20
- No offers or contracts during Open Gym / Evaluation Periods.
  - Exception: Offers to *returning* players allowed
- **Tryouts to begin July 21st:** (also announced May 30th)
  - Offers allowed during Tryouts, to returning *and* new players
- No contracts until July 25th (Retained Players) and July 28th (Players new to your club)

**The only "difficulty" with the May 30th version of this document was the phrase in paragraph 7:**

*"...The recruitment cycle begins again with roughly two weeks of Tryouts, **following the Dead Week.**"*

Some may have read into that phrase that "offers may start July 14th," but other text throughout the document, now highlighted in teal (but unchanged since the May 30 document), should have made clear that this was not our intention.

**All clubs are reminded of the rules described here.**

*You are also reminded that these rules were binding yesterday, and remain binding, even if you believe that another club may have broken them.*

Respectfully,



Keith Murlless, Executive Director, RMR

15 July 2025

# Boys Season Overview

**Levels Of Play:** The RMR offers two separate playing Divisions for boys.

- The "14 & Under" boys play on a women's-height net
- The "15 & Older." (known locally as the Boys High School Division) play on the men's-height net.
- Teams in each Division will be ranked within that division regardless of the specific age of the team.

## Eligibility

All team members must meet USAV/RMR eligibility requirements. Each must also meet the age requirements of the team with which they compete.

## Boys Regular Season

The USAV membership season formally opens on September 1st each year. RMR boys competition usually begins in early October, and runs through mid-January. RMR boys take a break during the spring High School season, then return for an event or two in June, leading into the summer Championship season.

Boys enjoy an "Open Gym Evaluation Period" at the end of their HighSchool season, then return for an event or two in preparation for the upcoming National Championship season.

The RMR Boys Club Season ends at midnight on the day of whichever end-of-year-tournament is the last one to conclude, whether it be USAV, AAU or any other National Championship.

**New for 2025-26:** RMR Boys Division will recognize a "Dead Week" immediately after the (last) Boys Championship. During the Dead Week **no contact with athletes is allowed.** (no open gyms, evaluations, assessments, lessons, skills camps, offers or any type of recruitment) The idea is to give all athletes a real "week off" before Club Tryouts.

The recruitment cycle begins again with roughly two weeks of Tryouts, following the Dead Week. **Tryouts** may include evaluations, assessment and verbal offers **to your own returning players but not to players new to your club**, but no contracts. RMR offers boys who are returning to the same club a three-day advance on their contract signing ("retention"). Three days later Clubs may sign athletes who are "new to them."

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## Threshold Dates for BOYS 2025-26:

- Saturday May 10th: Colorado High School Boys Championships concludes
- Sunday May 11th: RMR Boys Open Gyms may begin (EVALUATION only... no offers, no contracts)
- Monday July 7th: End of last summer Championship (AAU) and beginning of Dead Week
- 10am Monday July 14th: End of Dead-Week; **Secondary EVALUATION Period begins (no offers, no contracts)**
- **10am Monday July 21st:** Tryouts begin. *Offers may be made, but no contracts signed.*
- 10am Friday July 25th: RETENTION Contracts may be offered (to players affiliated to your club in 24-25)
- 10am Monday July 28th: Contracts may be offered to any eligible player.

# Recruiting and Contract Signing

## Philosophy

RMR member clubs are required to adhere to all USAV ethical doctrines (Safesport, MAAPP) and also to follow the RMR Policies as listed throughout this document. Additionally, clubs and their representatives are expected to conduct their business within the “spirit” of our recruitment policies. To that end:

- No recruitment of athletes during the regular season
- No recruitment of athletes while they are on-site at athletic contests, in the RMR or elsewhere

## Term

RMR Boy's Commitment is in effect from the date an individual signs a legally binding contract until after the last day of competition of whichever National Championship event is the last one to finish. This is generally the first part of July. *Note that USAV membership does extend through August 31st, for the purposes of summer camps, tryouts, etc.*

## Open Gyms

Open gyms for all male athletes are allowed to begin the day after Boys High School Championships.

- **For 2025:** “Open Gym” Evaluation Period begins **Sunday May 11th**.
- Assessment and evaluation is a part of the Open Gym experience
- Neither **offers** nor contracts are allowed to be made during the Open Gym/Evaluation Period.
- Open Gyms are allowed through the summer, through the Championships and until the start of the Dead Week.

## Dead Week **New for 2025-26:**

For one week after the last National Championship, there is to be NO contact with any male athletes. THIS IS A PERIOD OF REST.

- No camps, no evaluations, no assessments, no open gyms, no lessons, no clinics, no offers, no contracts.
- NO CONTACT (by any means including but not limited to electronic, telephonic or verbal)

**For 2025 The Dead Week runs Midnight July 7th through 10am July 14th.**

- There is no gap between end of Championship competition and the beginning of the no-contact period.
- Players may not be contacted immediately following their Championship; this must wait until after the Dead Period.

## Tryouts & Evaluations

Tryouts open at the end of the Dead Week and any subsequent Secondary Evaluation Period.

- **For 2025: There will be a Secondary Evaluation Period July 14-21st, to allow space for for Girls Tryouts**
  - **BOYS TRYOUTS begin 10am July 21st.**
- Clubs may determine their own evaluation and try-out process.
- **Offers may be made during Tryouts,** but contracts may not be offered until stipulated dates (below)
- Simple fees may be charged for Tryouts, but gifts or signing incentives are prohibited.
- Clubs are encouraged to make a sample contract available to review during tryouts

# Offers and Contracts

Verbal offers may be made during the Tryout period, but binding contracts must wait for the Portal and the assigned Contract Dates. For the sake of simplicity, the terms “offer” or “verbal offer” refer to any offer for an athlete to become part of a team. There is no difference between a written, verbal or electronic offer. These offers cannot be accompanied by a contract or by a request for a deposit.

It is not until the allowable signing of the contract will the agreement between the family and the club be considered official. Clubs are encouraged to give families *time to evaluate the club's offer* so that they may make the decision that is best for them. (example: minimum 24 hours to respond to a contract offer)

## Contract Types

- **Retention Contracts** are offered to players that were affiliated with that club through the previous season
  - Retention Contracts may go out no earlier than **10am JULY 25TH, 2025**
- **New-Player Contracts** are offered to players that were NOT affiliated with that club the previous season
  - New-Player Contracts may go out no earlier than **10am JULY 28TH, 2025**.

## Contract Signing Particulars:

- Contracts may be signed and countersigned by the athlete's parent or guardian and the offering club.
- A minor athlete may not sign a contract.
- Clubs may ask for and accept deposits.
- Any contracts signed prior to the contract signing period are null and void and subject to disciplinary action
- Once a contract is signed, the athlete is expected to remain with that club through the upcoming season.
  - *You are recognized as being a member of that club once a contract is signed by both parties.*

## ~~New Online Contract System (OCS Portal)~~ New for 2025-26

- ~~All RMR boys contract offers will be managed through the RMR Online Commitment Portal.~~

## Closed Recruiting Period:

Once an athlete has signed a contract with a club for the upcoming season, recruiting by any other team or club representative, is prohibited. A “team or club representative” includes any person who has a special interest in a specific club or team, such as a club director, coach, assistant coach, other club employee or volunteer, athlete, parent or family member of an athlete, club alumnus or club booster.

Clubs are allowed to advertise publicly for upcoming events, but they are not allowed to directly contact individual unaffiliated families or athletes during the Regular Season.

## Recruiting Violations in Boys Division

If allegations of recruiting or undue influence are made against a team or club representative, the burden of proof in substantiated form must be borne by the accusing party. Anyone with direct knowledge of perceived recruiting violations should report the incident through the RMR online reporting system. Reports by phone or email will NOT be accepted. Substantiated allegations of recruiting violations or undue influence will be processed by imposing the penalties established by the RMR Board of Directors

## Other Details about RMR Boys Programming

### Player Transfers

Transfers are not encouraged but are allowed, primarily considered for the purpose of adding players for Nationals and the growth of Boys Volleyball in the region. The Boys Division will consider transfers if both clubs are in agreement. The transfer policy applies to all indoor boys volleyball tournaments regardless of tournament affiliation. Violation of this policy results in a 1-day suspension for the first violation, suspension for a 3-day event for the second violation and a season suspension for a 3rd violation.

### Boys Playing In Girls Divisions

*Boys teams are no longer allowed to enter girls tournaments.* They are instead encouraged to use the Boys Power series as their primary source of competition.

In order to facilitate the sport, and particularly in less-populated areas of the Region, the RMR does allow co-ed participation under specific circumstances. "No more than two" individual boys, under specific age restrictions, may be permanently rostered into a girls team. (See the "Co-Ed" section in the RULES chapter of the Handbook, above.)

### Girls Playing In Boys Divisions

RMR Girls teams are allowed to register into Boys Divisions. This is generally allowed in order to "fill pools" in Boys competitions. No age restrictions apply. Seeding is managed by the boys committee, with input from girls Club Directos.

### Player Movement Within Club

RMR Athletes may be moved between boys teams within a club. Each athlete must meet the age requirement of the team(s). Athletes are only allowed to play on one team at each event.

### Frozen Roster Rule

All USAV athletes who are rostered to teams that participate in USAV Qualifiers or Championships are subject to the terms of the USAV Frozen Player Rule. Coaches and Directors are required to be familiar with all the particulars of that regulation. ( See [2025 Boys Championship Manual](#), pages 31-33.

### Coaches in Boys Division

The RMR recognizes that Coaches are professionals engaged in a career, and should therefore be allowed to pursue professional opportunities that arise. Still, in the interests of stability within our community, we expect that coaches will generally affiliate with one club for the entirety of a season. Some exceptions are recognized:

- Coaches may, with the permission of their original Club Director, coach for different clubs in different modalities of club volleyball (Girls, Boys, Beach)
- Coaches may, under exceptional circumstances AND with the permission of their original Club Director AND the RMR, occasionally ask to transfer from one club to another.