

The Juniors' Page

Bill Zehler, Junior Program Director

Once again, the Ohio Valley Region shattered every record we have established in the area of Junior participation. We had over 925 registered girls' teams this past season. Over 625 teams participated in our Junior Championships. There were close to 40 teams representing the OVR at the 2001 USA Volleyball Junior National Championships in Salt Lake City. We also had several boys' teams make the long trek to Phoenix, Arizona for the Boys' Junior National Championships.

The tryout season for Juniors clubs is now upon us. Athletes (and their parents) are making every effort to "make" the club that is the best "fit". Clubs are trying to attract the best athletes to form the best teams possible. We hope this is a positive experience for everyone involved. Families are cautioned to do their homework when looking for a club. We ask club directors to use common sense when trying to attract athletes to their organizations.

The first day clubs may host tryouts for athletes in grades 9-12 is the day *after* the State Volleyball Championships in your state. Tryouts for athletes in the 8th grade or younger may be held no earlier than the last Sunday in October (provided the Middle School season is over in your area). State High School Athletic Association regulations mandate that athletes from member schools may not tryout for off-season teams while their high/middle school teams are still involved in competition. Failure to adhere to these dates may jeopardize the eligibility of the athletes we are trying to serve. Please make sure your season is over before attending a tryout.

Tryouts may be of two types, 1) open to anyone or 2) by invitation only. It is the responsibility of each club to act responsibly when trying to attract athletes to their tryouts. Clubs may advertise through the media and distribute information regarding their tryouts to the coaches of the schools in their area at any time. It will be considered inappropriate for any member of a club (director, coach, or athlete) to try to recruit a member of another club. Clubs may respond to anyone interested in trying out for their program.

There are many types of tryouts. Some clubs have mandatory

meetings the athletes and parents *must* attend before tryouts. Some offer a clinic and give each athlete a T-shirt for participating. Others simply do physical and skills tests and evaluate athletes based on a 2-3 hour session. Some bring athletes in for more than one session. Clubs are urged to give value for the dollar in the fees they assess. *The consumer is advised to know what they are receiving for the fees they are charged!*



The Ohio Valley Region provides secondary tryout insurance for all clubs in good standing in the region. Clinics and "open gyms" *are not* covered by this insurance. Clubs offering these events are advised that they may not be a mandatory part of their tryout procedure. You must provide your own insurance coverage for these events. Clubs need to register their tryouts with the region. The recommended cost of tryouts is \$10.00. Permission is granted to charge more when proof of expense or value is documented.

Clubs may offer contracts to athletes at the end of their tryout sessions. The parents of an athlete *may* sign a contract as soon as it is offered if they wish. Clubs may not require a commitment "on site". The parents of an athlete invited to join a club *must* be given a period of seven days from the date of the tryouts to agree to sign a contract with the club.

All club directors and coaches conducting tryouts are encouraged to be registered members of USA Volleyball. We strongly recommend registering anyone working at your tryouts to cover personal liability for injury of an athlete. Failure to obtain insurance for unsanctioned events will result in all responsibility for injury being placed on the club. The OVR accepts *no* responsibility for claims against directors or coaches that are not registered members of this region.

Several educational programs will be offered to club directors and coaches. All club directors must complete the ASEP Sports Club Director course by January 1, 2002. This course will be offered in the region before this date. There will be several sites available to attend the IMPACT course. The

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