



## Carolina Region Volleyball Association

# Athlete and Club Bill of Rights for Tryouts

The purpose of this document is to assist athletes and their parents/guardians during the Carolina Region club volleyball tryout process. It is the club's responsibility to provide the athlete's family with all information currently available about its program. It is the responsibility of each athlete and her/his family to become educated about the program they are considering joining. It is the responsibility of both parties – club and athlete – to honor every commitment!

### **Guiding Principle:**

*Clubs/Teams/Coaches need to understand that they do not own the rights to players. Players (with help from their parents/guardians) have the right to choose where they want to obtain their club volleyball experience. Each membership year, each family has the right to choose to play for a different club/team than the year before without repercussions from their previous club.*

### **Athletes and families have a right to full information from the club about the tryout process.**

Different clubs conduct different types of tryouts. Become educated about the type of tryout you are attending by asking questions. [i.e. Are the tryouts targeted for a specific team or for any team in the club for which the athlete is age eligible? Has the club already "promised" positions to certain athletes, or is it an "open competition" for all positions? Is the athlete being considered for any team in the club, including the "top" team in her/his age group, or have some teams already been filled? Are the tryouts open to anyone regardless of prior affiliation, or are club members from the prior season given priority?]

### **Athletes and families have a right to attend any club tryout in the Carolina Region.**

Tryouts may be limited to one session, or they may be conducted over several sessions on different days. Tryouts, including any "call back" session(s), are usually one session per day, and generally no more than three hours in duration. Clubs have a right to charge a tryout fee, and multi-session tryouts may be more expensive than single-session tryouts. Open gym sessions or instructional clinics are usually not considered to be part of the tryout process, and most clubs do not require athletes to attend these pre-tryout events to attend their tryouts. Clubs can advertise and/or promote tryouts, pre-tryout clinics, and open gym sessions in a variety of ways including but not limited to newspaper ads, direct mail, flyers, brochures, and websites. Clubs may mail/email general information on their tryouts/club to anyone.

Tryouts for Girls' youth and junior athletes for the next USAV season may take place at any time after the completion of the prior season's Girls' USAV Junior National Championships. Clubs are encouraged to schedule their tryouts and commitment deadlines so that families will have the opportunities to try out with multiple clubs if they wish.

### **Athletes and families have the right to select any club without the risk of consequences or repercussions for school team participation.**

Many club coaches are also middle school or high school coaches, and the potential exists for conflict-of-interest situations to arise. Communications by coaches or clubs (direct or implied) that accepting or refusing an offer or attending another club's tryout will impact (positively or negatively) school volleyball participation are unethical, and violations may be reported to the school's Athletic Director, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association or the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association. Depending on the timing of tryouts, it is also important that club activities do not interfere with an athlete's opportunities to participate in school volleyball programs. Clubs are encouraged to respect the fall school athletic schedule, especially with any team activities that may be scheduled.

**Athletes have a right to attend multiple club tryouts without pressure or risk of an offered position “expiring”.**

Clubs should not make offers to multiple athletes for the same position or spot on a team. Clubs are encouraged to provide a minimum of 72 hours from the time a club spot is offered to require any club commitments from an athlete. Athletes can attend multiple clubs’ tryouts if they so choose without risk of “losing” an offer prior to the club’s announced commitment date. **Clubs that pressure athletes or families to commit prior to the club’s commitment date are in direct violation of this Bill of Rights.**

**Athletes and families have a right to be notified of their status as soon as possible once the club has reached a decision regarding the athlete.**

It is recommended that the club contact the athlete/family within 72 hours of a final tryout session to inform them of their tryout status. Contact may be by e-mail, web site, phone call, or other form of communication.

**Clubs have a right to a timely, unambiguous decision regarding an offered position.**

Athletes and families that are extended an offer are strongly encouraged to notify clubs as soon as possible of their decision. This is for the benefit of other athletes who may be on a club’s waiting list. Acceptance of an offer may be communicated verbally, but this is a non-binding commitment until official acceptance is documented in writing via an approved method established by the club. Athletes and families who accept a club’s offer should cease attending other clubs’ tryouts and notify other clubs (in whose tryouts they participated or that have already offered them a position) of their intent to accept an offer with another club. Depending on the timing of tryouts, athletes may not be able to confirm their club choice for the next USA Volleyball season until the season registration period opens on the Carolina Region registration system. **The only approved method for selecting a USAV club will be on the current season’s Carolina Region Letter of Commitment Form.** The current season’s form may only be completed/signed after **September 1** of each year. The club will collect and store those forms after September 1 each season. Once a Carolina Region *Letter of Commitment* is signed, the athlete should not try out for, or accept an offer from, any other club. Any conflicts between a club’s commitment form and a Carolina Region *Letter of Commitment* Form will **ONLY** be resolved with the current copy of the Carolina Region *Letter of Commitment*. Clubs must produce the current season’s Carolina Region Letter of Commitment to the Region office within 3 business days of any request or the athlete may be ruled as not officially committed to the club in any club transfer requests. All personal business/legal commitments made between the club and a player’s family will remain the responsibility of the related parties. The Carolina Region will not be responsible for enforcing private agreements. Contracts between a club and family are independent of any region obligations and policies.

**Clubs have a right to have all financial obligations honored.**

Athletes that commit to a club for the season are also committing to meet all financial responsibilities required by the club as part of their season contract. Families should not commit to a club if they are unable to meet those obligations. The Carolina Region is not authorized to enforce private agreements between a club and family.

Note to parent’s, guardians, and student-athletes: The principles outlined in this document are not absolute or “policy”. North Carolina clubs are encouraged to adopt this document to aid in providing a Fair Tryout process for all athletes. You may find clubs that go above and beyond the ideals in this document and some that do not. **This information is only intended to assist you as you navigate the club tryout process.** It is important to remember that you are the consumer, and you are purchasing a product! It is your responsibility to know what you are buying. If a club is acting in way that appears to not have your best interests in mind, then you should consider that in your decisions. There are many quality programs offered throughout our Region. Our desire is for every athlete, family, and club to be 100% satisfied with the decisions they make during tryouts. As this is not a policy document, clubs that do not adhere to any part of this document are not in violation of any Region rules and should not be reported.



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A more detailed version of this document may be found on the Carolina Region website:

<http://www.carolinaregionvb.org/juniors/>

- **Athletes and families have a right to full information from the club about the tryout process.**
- **Athletes and families have a right to attend any sanctioned club tryout in the Carolina Region.**
- **Athletes and families have the right to select any club without the risk of consequences or repercussions for school team participation.**
- **Athletes have a right to attend multiple club tryouts without pressure or risk of an offered position “expiring”.**
- **Athletes and families have a right to be notified of their status as soon as possible once the club has reached a decision regarding the athlete.**
- **Clubs have a right to a timely, unambiguous decision regarding an offered position.**
- **Clubs have a right to have all financial obligations honored.**

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