

Ohio Valley Region Girls' Club Recruiting Policy

It is the responsibility of every club and its agents to act responsibly when attracting athletes to their program. Athletes and their legal guardians are expected to know their rights in the recruiting process. All pertinent information regarding this process shall be posted on the Ohio Valley Region website at <https://www.ovr.org/juniors/index.php>.

A club may contact any athlete for the purpose of recruiting them to its program. This may occur after the conclusion of the athlete's interscholastic season or after the completion of the juniors' season for the athlete with their current club. As defined by the Region, this contact period is from June 1 through July 31, as long as the indoor season of the athlete's team has concluded.

It is inappropriate for any agent of a club to initiate contact with an athlete from August 1 to the conclusion of the athlete's interscholastic season. This is a "no contact" period for the club. Clubs and their agents may not initiate any contact with a prospective female athlete during this time. During the no-contact period, the club may advertise its tryouts through the media (newspapers, web site, etc.) and distribute information about its program to scholastic coaches. The club may also respond to any request for information about its program. Clubs offering clinics and open gyms prior to tryouts are cautioned to act in accordance with its state's athletic association rules for participation. The Ohio Valley Region will not sanction or approve these activities as part of the tryout process.

There are four methods for forming teams in a club:

1. invitational teams without tryouts
2. tryouts for positions on a team that is comprised of returning athletes
3. teams formed based on the results of all athletes trying out
4. positions offered after tryouts, with teams being formed after additional evaluation

It is the club's responsibility to inform, in writing, the athlete and her legal guardian(s) of the type of team she is joining prior to offering participation or attending tryouts.

When hosting tryouts, clubs must follow the rules and regulations of the state athletic associations of all athletes that attend. Athletes in grades 7–12 whose schools are members of the OHSAA may not participate in tryouts until the completion of their interscholastic championships (i.e. after the state finals for high school athletes). This may vary for surrounding states. Athletes (and their guardians) accepting positions on teams by the invitational process may do so at any time during the tryout process.

Each athlete who attends a tryout must be advised of her status within 72 hours of the final tryout offered. Once an athlete has been notified of her invitation to play, she has to accept or decline the position by the signing period deadlines. The club and its agents may not contact the athlete and her family during this time. Acceptance of an offer must be submitted in writing by the guardian of the athlete. Athletes over the age of eighteen may legally accept an offer. Once the offer has been accepted, the athlete may not accept another offer.



Each OVR-registered coach has agreed, by signing the Juniors' Coaches' Code of Ethics, that he or she will not "allow, encourage, condone, or require any action that threatens a player's High School Association, USAV or NCAA eligibility (item #9)." While the OVR will not actively monitor clubs relative to state athletic association rules, any OVR coach whose participation in clinics, training, tryouts, or other related actions results in or contributes to an athlete's violation of OHSAA Rule 10-3-1, or similar rules in other states, will likely have violated the Juniors' Coaches' Code of Ethics and be subject to disciplinary action.

Part of the OVR mission is to "Promote and develop the sport of volleyball." A coach who violates the OVR Juniors Coaches' Code of Ethics in a manner that leads to an athlete's ineligibility to play volleyball should, therefore, expect to receive the most severe sanctions from the OVR. If an athlete or her family feels that they have been inappropriately approached or recruited by a club, they are encouraged to file an Incident Report (https://www.ovr.org/forms/OVR_Incident_Report.pdf) with the OVR Commissioner. The Commissioner will investigate any reports submitted. Sanctions for improper recruiting will be determined by the Commissioner.