

## Volleyball Manitoba Club Volleyball Seasons of Play, Scouting and Recruiting Regulations – Terms and General Info

### Terms:

“Clubs” is a broad term used to encompass any group or individual associated with a club program or acting on behalf of a club program.

“Direct Recruitment” means communicating with an individual athlete or group of athletes in a personalized way with the purpose of convincing them to participate with a Club program. This includes any in-person communication, phone calls, emails, social media direct messaging, etc.

- Any Direct Recruitment must always involve an athlete’s parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

“Indirect Recruitment” means passive communication that is not personalized such as website postings, general social media posts, flyers, posters, etc.

“Competition Blackout” indicates a period of time during which no local Club Volleyball competitions can occur.

“Training Blackout” indicates a period of time during which no Club Volleyball Team training can occur.

“Recruitment Blackout” indicates a period of time during which no Direct Recruitment of athletes can occur. Indirect Recruitment can still be made available.

- A question we often get about Recruitment Blackouts is what a Coach should do if they are approached during a Blackout.
- A Coach may give their email address or relay information that is openly available (Tryout dates, locations, etc.) however they should not engage in any Direct Recruitment.

“Tryout Window” indicates the period of time during which Clubs may begin to host Tryouts for available roster spots.

“Holiday Break” indicates the period of time during which schools are closed in late December to early January.

- This Break is in place in order to give parents, athletes and coaches this time off from volleyball activities, allow them to enjoy the holidays and recharge in advance of the Club Season.

### Rules for Club Camps outside of Club Season:

Club Camps may take place during the Beach/Provincial Team Season but they must remain neither Mandatory (athletes are not required to attend in order to maintain a place on a Club Team) nor Exclusive (should not be invitation only).

Club Camps during the School Season are not Sanctioned by Volleyball Manitoba. If Clubs do choose to host Unsanctioned Camps during the School Season they must remain neither Mandatory nor Exclusive. School Volleyball should be an athlete’s priority during the School Season, and Clubs should do their best to avoid conflict with School Programs.

- Clubs should be aware that athletes often feel pressure to attend Fall Camps in order to increase their chances at making a Club Team. Clubs should do their best to encourage athletes to prioritize their School Season and only use Club Camps as supplemental training where appropriate.
- School Coaches should feel empowered to set practice and/or match attendance guidelines for their athletes to follow, and they should be open with their athletes about their position on Club Camp opportunities during the School Season.
- Parents should do their best to educate themselves on these Guidelines and help ensure that Coaches comply with them. A positive Athlete/Family experience is our highest priority, and diligent parents play a big role in helping maintain a safe and fun sport environment.

### Discipline:

**Listed below are the standard disciplinary actions VM will follow. Additional disciplinary actions may be considered for each offense based on the severity of the offence.**

A 1<sup>st</sup> Offense will result in a \$250 fine, a letter of reprimand to the Coach and their respective Club, and a 1-Year Probationary Period for the Coach.

A 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense will result in a \$500 fine, a letter of reprimand to the Coach and their respective Club, and a 1-Year Suspension from all VM Activities for the Coach.

A 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense will result in a letter of reprimand to the Coach and their respective Club, and an Indefinite Suspension from all VM Activities for the Coach.

- A reinstatement may be requested annually but will require a \$500 non-refundable Reinstatement Fee and will be considered at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- Additional conditions may be placed on a reinstatement.

All fines are due two weeks after notice of discipline is received. If payment is not received on time, that member shall be placed in-bad-standing until the fine is paid.

Any Club that utilizes a Coach while they are in-bad-standing will be subject to additional discipline.

The investigation of complaints and the implementation of discipline will be outlined in the [Discipline and Complains Policy](#)

## Volleyball Manitoba Club Volleyball Seasons of Play, Scouting and Recruiting Regulations – Seasonal Activity Table

Season	Activity
<b>Beach/Provincial Team Season:</b> June 1 (July 1 for 2021) to Friday of September Long Weekend  <i>Competition and Training Blackouts in effect throughout entire season</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beginning on July 1, a Recruiting Blackout comes into effect.</li> <li>- A Competition and Training Blackout will be in effect for the entire Beach/Provincial Team Season</li> <li>- Beginning on the Tuesday after August Long (Aug 3), Clubs may start recruiting athletes for the upcoming Club Volleyball Season.</li> <li>- Both Direct and Indirect Recruitment are permitted. Any Direct Recruitment must always involve an athlete's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).</li> <li>- Recruitment can consist of inviting an athlete to a tryout held during the Tryout Window in December or inviting an athlete on to a team directly, however Clubs should not have an expectation of commitment during this season. The earliest an athlete can formally commit to a Club is during the Early-Signing Window (16U and older only) or following the Tryout Window in December (all age groups).</li> <li>- Recruitment should not include excessive or aggressive communication trying to convince the athlete to play for one's Club.</li> <li>- Recruitment is not permitted while an athlete is actively participating in a Provincial Team (Indoor or Beach) Program.</li> <li>- Summer Camps are allowed so long as they are neither Exclusive nor Mandatory.</li> <li>- Tryouts are not permitted in the Summer, and Summer Camps shall not be used as Tryouts.</li> </ul>
<b>School Season:</b> Saturday of September Long Weekend to Grad All-Star Weekend  <i>Competition and Training Blackouts in effect throughout entire season</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Early-Signing Window begins on the Tuesday following September Long Weekend (Sept 7) and is open for 7 days.</li> <li>- 16U and Older athlete's can formally sign with Clubs during this period and Clubs can begin to receive payments from signed athletes.</li> <li>- Clubs must give Athletes until Friday to consider offers, however if an Athlete is ready to sign they may do so at any time during the window.</li> <li>- Clubs are not required to utilize the Early-Signing Window, and players are not required to sign with Clubs during this time.</li> <li>- If Clubs do utilize the Early-Signing Window, they must register any players in to the Online Registration System at the end of the Window.</li> <li>- Clubs can not hold Camps, Tryouts or any other program during this window</li> <li>- Following the Early-Signing Window, Clubs who have signed players will have team and player lists (including playing positions) published on the Volleyball Manitoba website.</li> <li>- This is in place to help provide unsigned athletes with some direction during the December Tryout Window, letting them know which Clubs/Teams have which roster positions filled already.</li> <li>- Once the Early-Signing Window is closed, general recruiting rules as outlined for the Beach/Provincial Team Season will come in to effect along with the following additions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recruitment is not permitted while an athlete is participating in a School Team function (i.e. tournament or league game). This includes while an athlete is on school grounds immediately before or after an event and any time during an event.</li> <li>- Always respect School Coaches. If you are at an event to scout/recruit an athlete (or multiple athletes), touch base with their respective School Coach(es). This is a small gesture, but it goes a long way towards building good will.</li> <li>- School Coaches can hopefully help identify parents to Club Coaches to initiate communication.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Beginning November 1, a Recruitment Blackout will be in place for all athletes participating on a School Team.</li> <li>- During the Recruitment Blackout we strongly encourage athletes to focus on their School Playoffs and not attend Fall Camps.</li> <li>- The Recruitment Blackout will remain in place for each athlete until the end of their School Season (i.e. the day after their last School Team Event). After this point general recruiting rules outlined above for the School Season will resume.</li> </ul>
<b>Club Season:</b> Grad All-Star Weekend (GASW) to May 31  <i>Competition Blackout in place until the first weekend of February</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Tryout Window begins the Saturday of the Grad All-Star Weekend for 16U and younger teams and the Sunday of the GASW for 17U &amp; 18U.</li> <li>- During the Tryout Window Clubs may make offers to athletes, however Clubs must give athletes until at least the Monday following the weekend after the GASW to consider offers. This is to allow athletes that haven't received or accepted offers to attend tryouts on the second weekend if they wish before they need to make a decision.</li> <li>- Beginning on the Monday following the weekend after the GASW, Clubs can begin to sign athletes and register them online.</li> <li>- After this point, Teams with complete rosters may begin training up until the Monday when schools begin their Holiday Break.</li> <li>- Beginning on the first Monday of the Holiday Break a Training Blackout will come in to affect.</li> <li>- The Training Blackout will remain in place until the second Friday of the Holiday Break; teams can resume training that Saturday.</li> <li>- Once school returns in January, any unsigned athletes can be recruited according to the recruiting rules outlined for the Beach/Provincial Team Season.</li> <li>- Local Competitions can begin on the first weekend of February.</li> <li>- Athletes are considered signed until the end of the Club Season and any signed athlete may not be recruited during this time.</li> </ul>