



Seasons of Play: Scouting and Recruiting

Key Terms

- **Club** - Any group or individual associated with, or acting on behalf of, a club program. **Scouting** Observing athletes at an event to evaluate performance. Scouting alone is **not** recruitment.
- **Recruitment** - Direct, personalized communication with an athlete for the purpose of convincing them to join a club (e.g., in person, phone, email, DM)
 - **Allowed:** Public communication such as websites, flyers or general social media posts. Coaches may provide or collect contact information for later use.
 - **Not Allowed:** Personalized communication with an athlete without a parent/guardian present.
- **Competition Blackout** - No local club competitions may occur.
- **Training Blackout** - No club training may occur.
- **Recruitment Blackout** - No recruitment of athletes may occur.
- **Early-Signing Window** - Period when eligible clubs may sign 17U/18U athletes.
- **Tryout Window** - Period when clubs may hold tryouts for available roster spots.
- **Holiday Break** - December 24 – January 1. No club training, competition or recruitment.

Season Definitions

- **Summer Season** – June 1 to Labour Day Monday. Programs include Beach, Provincial Team and camps.
- **School Season** – Tuesday after Labour Day to Grad All-Star (Dec. 6) weekend. Programs include MHSAA, Grade 7/8 school volleyball, Community Youth and camps.
- **Club Season** - Dec. 7 to May 31. Programs include club volleyball and Community Youth.

Rules for Club Camps outside of Club Season

- All camps must be registered with Volleyball Manitoba (VM) and will be posted online.
 - Mandatory for insurance coverage.
 - \$5/participant registration fee (under review; may become flat \$50 sanctioning fee).
- Strength & conditioning or other off-court training offered by clubs must also be registered.
- Camps must be **neither mandatory (not required for team placement)** nor **exclusive (not invitation-only)**.
- During the School Season:
 - School volleyball should remain the athlete's priority.
 - Camps must avoid conflict with school programs.
- Parents should not organize club-focused activities ("open gyms") as a way around these regulations.
- Coaches not registered with VM and not following regulations risk being denied future membership.
- Clubs should recognize that athletes may feel pressured to attend camps. Camps must remain supplemental.
- School coaches should set clear attendance expectations and communicate their position on club camp opportunities.
- Parents play a key role in supporting compliance and ensuring a positive athlete experience.

Private Training

Private training is permitted under the following conditions: it must be open and accessible to any athlete who wishes to participate; it may occur at any time throughout the year; and it must be athlete-driven. Athletes must have the ability to determine their own participation, including the flexibility to decline or take rest periods as required, without undue influence or obligation. Private training is intended to support individual athlete skill development and must not be used by a club coach to privately train their own athletes for the benefit of a specific team.



Private Training Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the conditions under which private training may occur, ensuring fairness, accessibility, and a focus on athlete skill development.

Scope

This policy applies to all Volleyball Manitoba members, including athletes, coaches, and clubs.

Conditions

Private training is permitted under the following conditions:

- **Accessibility:** Training must be open and available to any athlete who wishes to participate.
- **Timing:** Private training may occur at any time throughout the year.
- **Athlete-Driven:** Participation must be guided by the athlete's individual choice, including the ability to decline or take rest periods without pressure or obligation.
- **Purpose:** Private training must focus on the development of individual athlete skills.
- **Restrictions:** Private training must not be conducted by a club coach exclusively for their own athletes with the intent of benefiting a specific team.

Recruitment Rules by Season

Summer Season (June 1 – Labour Day Monday)

- **Competition/Training Blackouts** are in effect.
- **Recruitment Blackout** (June 1 – Tuesday after August Long).
 - Applies to all athletes (previous club, other club, or new).
 - Coaches may only share contact info or publicly available details.
- **Club Approval Applications** open July 1 (generally only for clubs planning Early Signing).
- **Recruitment Opens** Tuesday after August Long.
 - Must include parent/guardian.
 - No excessive or aggressive communication.
 - Not permitted while athlete is in a Team Manitoba program.
 - Athletes cannot commit until Early-Signing (17U/18U only) or after December tryouts.
- **No Tryouts or ID Camps** during Summer Season. Skills camps may occur but must remain neither mandatory nor exclusive.

School Season

- **Competition/Training Blackouts** remain in effect.
- **Recruitment** allowed for unsigned athletes only:
 - Must include parent/guardian.
 - Early-Signed athletes may not be recruited further.
 - Not permitted during school events (games, tournaments, while on school grounds).
 - No expectation of commitment until December tryouts.
- **No Tryouts or ID Camps** during School Season.
- Coaches attending events for scouting/recruitment must:
 - Respect and communicate with school coaches.
 - Not approach athletes directly without a parent/guardian.
- **Recruitment Blackout (Nov 1 – end of school season):**
 - Applies to 16U–18U athletes while on a school team.
 - Does not apply to 15U and younger, or athletes not on a school team.
 - Strongly encourage athletes to prioritize playoffs and avoid fall camps.



Club Season (Dec 7 – May 31)

- **Tryout Periods:**
 - 13U/14U: November 30
 - 15U/16U: December 6
 - 17U/18U: December 7
- **Offers:**
 - May be made beginning December 7.
 - Must use VM-provided wording.
 - Offer deadlines:
 - Tryout weekend: athlete has until Tuesday, 6:00pm.
 - After Tuesday: athlete must have at least 24 hours.
 - Athletes may accept immediately or within the allowed time.
 - Once signed, athletes remain with their club until end of Club Season and may not be recruited further.
- **Training/Competitions** may begin once teams are signed.
- **Holiday Break:** Dec 24 – Jan 1. No training, competitions, or recruitment.