Volleyball Manitoba Scouting and Recruiting Regulations 2026-2027

Definitions

Commitment – A player is only committed once they have registered with a team by signing a VM Individual Registration Form during Ealy Signing (17/18U) or the Tryout Period (13U-18U). Once signed an athlete remains committed for the duration of the age class season ending May 31 and can no longer be recruited.

Written Offer – The expression of a coach to provide/hold a spot on a team for the duration of an age class season in the form of writing. Acceptance is non-binding.

Verbal Offer – The expression of a coach to provide/hold a spot on a team for the duration of an age class season in the form of dialogue/conversation. Acceptance is non-binding.

Direct Communication - Communicating with an individual athlete or group of athletes in a personalized way with the purpose of encouraging them to participate in club activities (try outs, camps, individual lessons). This includes any in-person communication, phone calls, emails, social media direct messaging, etc. Direct communication is not limited to club representatives and guardians must be included in all dialogue.

Direct Recruitment – Communicating with an individual athlete or group of athletes in a personalized way with the purpose of encouraging them accept a spot on a team. This includes written or verbal offers. Direct communication is not limited to club representatives and guardians must be included in all dialogue.

Indirect Recruitment – passive, global communication that is not personalized such as website postings, expressions of interest, general social media posts, flyers, newsletters, posters, etc.

Early Signing – the period of time open for athletes playing in the 17U and 18U age categories to be solicited for a commitment. 16U athletes are not eligible to sign within the early signing window.

Tryout Period - the period of time during which clubs may begin to host tryouts for available roster spots and solicit commitments within approved dates.

Open Gyms - August 24 – 30 Clubs may offer open gyms for identification purposes to any age class athletes aspiring to play at the 17U or 18U level.

Recruitment Blackout – a period of time during which no Direct Recruitment or *Direct Communication* with athletes can occur.

Training, Recruitment & Competition Blackout – the period of time where all training, recruitment, and competitions are not permitted.

Best Practices

Families are strongly encouraged to explore multiple opportunities to determine the best fit for their athlete. Participating in sanctioned programs such as camps, open gyms and tryouts, or interacting with coaches through approved recruitment windows, are all acceptable means of achieving this outcome.

Clubs and athletes are not obligated to use the Early Signing Period and may continue to use the tryout period in December to explore all options.

Clubs are expected that all programming and communication be athlete-centric and avoid creating undue stress for families. Adhering to the 'spirit of the rules' contributes to a healthy sport community overall. VM recommends clubs and athletes follow a Yearly Training Plan informed by Long-Term Development principles that allows for multi-sport participation and periods of rest from volume, intensity, and competitive pursuits.

A guiding principle is that athletes are free to make informed decisions and a commitment prior to either the Early Signing or Tryout Periods is NOT binding. Any imposed expectations or deadlines for a commitment outside of these approved periods of time is deemed unacceptable and subject to disciplinary action.

Timelines & Blackout Periods

June 1st - August 3rd: Recruitment Blackout Period

August 4th: Recruitment Blackout lifts with **Best Practices** in mind.

13U-15U Direct communication is permitted

16U-18U Direct recruitment is permitted

August 24th – 30th: Open Gyms permitted (17U & 18U).

August 31st – September 4th: Early Signing for 17U and 18U approved teams.

September 5th – October 31st

16U athletes & Younger- Recruitment Blackout. Direct communication is permitted.

17U & 18U – Direct Recruitment is permitted.

October 31st- End of athlete's school season: Recruitment Blackout Period 13U-18U.

November 29th: 13-14U tryouts begin. Offers sent December 6th @ 6pm.

December 5th: 15U-16U tryouts begin. Offers sent December 12th @ 6pm.

December 6th: Signed athletes may begin training.

December 12th: 17U-18U tryouts begin. Offers sent December 17th @ 6pm.

December 13th: 18U tryout blackout due to Graduating All-Star Game.

December 24th - January 1st: Training, Recruitment & Competition Blackout.

Penalties

Any infractions of the regulations as stated may result in the following:

- First Offence: Club will be fined $100.

- Second Offence: Escalated to Volleyball Manitoba. One year suspension.