

## Ocean County Volleyball Club Tryout Information

The following information is for parents and players concerning the process we use for team placement.

This time is probably one of the more stressful times for our players and parents. We want to remind everyone that this is a very accurate process and to assure you we have your daughter in the correct skill level during the season. No team of 10-12 players will ever have exactly the same skill level; it will vary similar to school teams. Each age division normally will have numerous teams based on skill level and other factors. The tryout process is to determine which skill group level the athlete is placed. Seldom do we cut players, but do reserve the right.

It never fails that a parent or two think we are crazy and don't understand how we can't see what they see. Often we will have parents say, my child is the starter (and maybe the stud) on their school team, how can she be placed on that team. Keep in mind we have starters (and studs) coming from multiple schools. The simple fact is, these may be better athletes.

**Players are required to tryout within their USAV age division.** Note that if we allowed by request for players to play "up", most would request this. We are in belief players should play within their age group, unless there is extenuating circumstances. If we move a player up, that pushes down a deserving player within her age division. I doubt you would want to be the player that has to move down for a younger player to move up.

In each age division, athletes vary in skill level; some athletes have extensive playing experience while others do not. Athletes first go through a battery of volleyball related tests. Then we assess their skill execution, as well as intrinsic traits. We base our selections for teams on many factors: what the athletes do during the tryout period, what we perceive their potential to be, what a particular team needs for the coming season, how well the athlete compares to other available athletes, to name a few. We look at specific athletic ability for volleyball, overall athletic potential, work ethic, drive, willingness to be coached, competitive attitude, and skill level. We select athletes for teams because they show the ability or potential, in our opinion, to help those teams compete successfully at the highest level.

Players who were on a team last year should not expect to be on the same level team, or higher. With new players coming in, it is reasonable to expect higher level players could take spots. This doesn't mean lower teams are less talented, just more talent on all teams.

**Best Team NOT Best Players (5 setters, 8 oh, etc)**— teams must be selected according to position—a team cannot be formed around six athletic setters, three liberos, one middle hitter and one outside hitter—this means that a LESS-skilled/experienced middle hitter may be chosen to a higher-level team than a MORE-skilled/experienced setter simply because the setter positions for the higher-level team have already been filled; players and parents should understand that the coaches and staff at Ocean County Volleyball Club are faced with the difficult task of maximizing the potential for EACH athlete as well as for EACH team, and we believe that this goal can be achieved best by placing players on teams and in positions that will highlight their strengths and will allow them the opportunity to improve in other areas as well; the coaching staff desires that each player and each team perform at the highest level possible, and we will select teams with that goal in mind; in the team selection process, no other interests or agendas will take precedence over the club's!

**AFTER TRYOUTS:** What you must do to accept.

Teams will be announced within 7 days of tryouts. We will post the teams, send emails or make phone calls to notify you what team your child has made. We will also post practice times and location, as well as the coaching staff to the website shortly after teams are finalized. Please check website regularly for updates.

Once an offer has been made, each family has a grace 3 day period to accept or decline our offer. The exact date will be posted when teams are announced. If a family has not responded by the posted date, it will automatically be assumed they have declined our offer, and your spot will be given to the next player.

Many of our players have the capability in the future to play in college. We certainly are grooming each for this goal. However, we have had a number of parents express unwillingness for their daughter to play for a specific coach because that coach doesn't match their ideal personalities. (I.e. the coach yells too much, doesn't yell enough, is too hard or too easy in drills, is too calm in matches or not calm enough, or is not the motivator they feel the coach should be. A few have made mistakes; said the wrong thing, done the wrong thing).

Keep in mind; we hire the best coaches available. We expect our athletes to learn how to work with various personalities, which in turn is teaching them about life, as we all deal with and adjust to different personalities every day.

**We want to remind this college level athlete and family that you don't want to be known as the person-family that can only play for the "perfect" coach.** If this is the case, you probably will not find a perfect coach in college, and probably will limit, if not eliminate your college playing choices.