



## TRYOUT WINDOW REGULATIONS 2020 – UPDATED JULY 30/2020

Period	Start Date	End Date	Activities
EARLY RE-SIGNING PERIOD <b>(Open to all returning athletes)</b>	June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clubs are permitted to send re-signing offers to returning athletes who will be participating in the <b>12U-18U age division for the upcoming season.</b></li> <li>• Offers are only valid when presented using the OVA Re-signing Form.</li> <li>• Early re-signing forms must have the Head Coach listed and confirmed for next season or have other conditions listed on the offer to be valid.</li> <li>• Some fields on the re-signing form are recommended and can be presented with the information available at the time. However, if there are any changes in the terms, or there is a failure to meet the terms in the agreement/offer it may be voided.</li> <li>• Offers can be sent and returned at any time during this period. All offers must be honoured until 8:00 PM on Aug 31<sup>st</sup> or a minimum of 36 hours from the time indicated on the offer form, which ever is longer.</li> <li>• Clubs <b>MUST</b> provide a list of re-signed athletes to the OVA for mandatory posting on the website by the first Wednesday after Labour Day Weekend.</li> <li>• Clubs are permitted to collect non-refundable deposits for club fees from re-signed athletes once they have accepted a re-signing offer. All deposits must be returned if a club fails to meet the terms of the offer.</li> <li>• Online registration will be made available beginning September 1 for re-signed athletes.</li> <li>• Athletes are permitted to begin team activities once they have been re-signed.</li> </ul>
PHASE 1: OFFER FOR ATHLETES CURRENTLY TRAINING WITH A NEW CLUB	AUG 28	AUG 31	<p>This step in the process is meant to assist athletes who are currently training with a new club.</p> <p>As in previous years, all athletes are free agents as of May 31st of each season. This free agency status allows athletes to begin looking at and possibly training with new clubs over the summer months.</p> <p>Over the summer, many of these athletes have expressed a verbal interest in committing to this new club during their free agency. Therefore, from AUGUST 28<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> 2020, clubs can send offers to any players who are currently training with them and have indicated via written consent (email) that they would like to play for their club team for the up coming season. At any time leading up to August 28<sup>th</sup>, athletes may submit a written email letter of interest to the Club to let them know that they would like to compete for their Clubs team for the 2020-21 season. This is the starting point of the process for this period of the Tryout Window for 2020-21.</p> <p>This phase does overlap with the current re-signing period due to the timing of Labour Day and the uncertainty and variability of what the September may look like across the province due to potential lack of permits as well as</p>

			<p>the COVID-19 pandemic gathering size limitations and on-court activities may not be able to take place in all communities.</p> <p>This application process must be athlete driven. Offers CANNOT be unsolicited by the Club to the athlete. Athletes must have sent expression of interest via email submission to the club they have been training with over the summer months at any point leading up to August 28, 2020. Only once a Club has a written expression of interest from the athlete they are allowed to send an offer letter to the specific athlete.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 1<sup>st</sup> to August 28<sup>th</sup> – Athletes training with new clubs to send email confirmation of interest to join the new Clubs team for the 2020-21 season.</li> <li>• August 28<sup>th</sup>: Clubs are permitted to begin sending offers to athletes who have previously expressed written expression of interest. All offers must be sent via email on the OVA Phase 1 Offer form.</li> <li>• All information requested on the offer form is MANDATORY. if there are any changes in the terms, or there is a failure to meet the terms in the agreement/offer, it may be voided. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MANDATORY Information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Head Coach</li> <li>▪ Specific Age Division</li> <li>▪ Specific Team</li> <li>▪ Expected Base Fees</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• All club-initiated offers are valid for 24 hours as per the time on the email.</li> <li>• The last day to send out offers is August 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:59pm.</li> </ul>
OPEN HOUSE	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues. after Labour Day		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open to anyone from any club.</li> <li>• Information and Q &amp; A</li> <li>• No offers or commitments (verbal or non-verbal) are permitted.</li> </ul>
RE-SIGNED LISTS DUE TO THE OVA OFFICE	SEPT 9		<p>All clubs who have re-signed athletes must provide a list of committed athletes to the OVA by September 9<sup>th</sup>. Clubs must submit lists via <b>FormStack</b> through the OVA website (<a href="https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/club-tryouts">https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/club-tryouts</a>).</p> <p>All lists must include the athletes age division and position (multiple age divisions and positions are permitted).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to report re-signed athletes will result in sanctions.</li> </ul>
COACH DEVELOPMENT	1 <sup>st</sup> Fri. after	1 <sup>st</sup> Sun. after Labour Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Coaches are encouraged to seek out certification opportunities during this time.</li> <li>• Target Audience is the advanced coaching programs</li> <li>• No offers or commitments (verbal or non-verbal) are permitted.</li> <li>• Please refer to the OVA website for the most recent version of the Certification policy</li> </ul>

	Labour Day		<a href="https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/coaches-certification">https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/coaches-certification</a>
PHASE 2: CLUB DECLARATION	SEPT 17		<p>After Phase one has been completed, clubs may still have open roster spots. This phase in the process is meant to allow clubs to advertise their needs and encourage applications. This phase is imperative to the process as the OVA website will be a central board for athletes to view clubs that are accepting applications.</p> <p>Clubs will be listed by region, hometown (as listed in NRS), and alphabetically.</p> <p>On SEPTEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>, any club accepting applications will be required to submit the following information for each team with open spots on the roster. This information will be posted on the OVA website (<a href="https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/club-tryouts">https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/club-tryouts</a>).</p> <p>The following information will be requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Club Name</li> <li>○ Coaching Staff</li> <li>○ Age Division</li> <li>○ Position or positions (if applicable)</li> <li>● Number of positions available on each team</li> </ul>
TRYOUT PERIOD	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. after Labour Day	Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This is the only period where offers can be presented</li> <li>● Clubs may charge tryout fees.</li> <li>● Offers can be sent and returned at any time during this period. All offers must be honoured for 36 hours or until the date and time indicated on the offer form, which ever is longer.</li> <li>● The last day to add new athletes to rosters is Feb 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season.</li> </ul>
ATHLETE APPLICATION PROCESS	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. after Labour Day	Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The application process is designed to allow players to apply for a spot on a club team without requiring access to gym space and to mitigate the transmission risks of COVID-19. This process replaces a traditional tryout with an athlete-initiated application. PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR A FULL COPY OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS:  <a href="https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/club-tryouts">https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/club-tryouts</a></li> <li>● If a club is able to secure permits, is following the OVA Indoor Return to Play protocols, Ontario and Public Health regulations and gathering size laws, clubs can choose to run on court tryouts or even run a combination of both the application process and on court tryout activities for the 2020-21 season</li> </ul>

COACH DEVELOPMENT	Last Friday of Sept.	To Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target Audience is the “entry level” coach but is open to host any programs.</li> <li>• All Coaches are encouraged to seek out certification opportunities during this time.</li> <li>• Please refer to the OVA website for the most recent version of the Certification policy  <a href="https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/coaches-certification">https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/coaches-certification</a> </li> </ul>
<p>NOTES: description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No offers or commitments (verbal or non-verbal) are permitted until the Tryout Period.</li> <li>• Re-signed athletes are permitted to begin training with their club once the athlete signs back an offer form.</li> <li>• Clubs will not require a full roster in NRS to REGISTER for the first event of the season, however, Clubs must have all players on their roster prior to COMPETING. The first event of the season will have 4-week deadlines for registration.</li> <li>• A soft uniform policy will be in effect for the first tournament for each age class. Club contacts/coaches will be required to notify the OVA if a team’s uniforms may be incomplete prior to participation in their first event of the season.</li> <li>• All “Club Information” on the re-signing form is required. If there are any changes in the terms, or there is a failure to meet the terms in the agreement/offer it may be voided.</li> </ul>			

## SEASON OF PLAY

The Ontario Volleyball Association (OVA) Indoor Youth Competition season of play begins on the Saturday after Labour Day and ends on May 31st of each year. No tryouts may take place between February 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday after Labour Day.

## RE-SIGNING

A returning athlete is defined as a registered OVA member with a club during the previous year/season who is being offered a position with the same club. Clubs have the option to sign returning athletes in the 12U-18U age categories between June 1<sup>st</sup> and Aug 31<sup>st</sup>, the second re-signing period is TBD. If there are any changes in the terms, or there is a failure to meet the terms in the agreement/offer it may be voided.

Athletes who did not re-sign with their same club are able to try out for another club team (and/or their old club). Clubs and athletes are not obligated to utilize the re-signing period.

All clubs who have re-signed athletes must provide a list of committed athletes to the OVA, this deadline is TBD. All lists are due via **FormStack** through the OVA website (<https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/club-tryouts>). Failure to report re-signed athletes will result in sanctions. All lists must include the athletes age division and position (multiple age divisions and positions are permitted).

Once an athlete has been re-signed, clubs are permitted to collect deposits. These deposits can be non-refundable. If a club is unable to fulfill the agreement as outlined on the offer form all deposits must be returned to the athlete.

Clubs that have re-signed athletes can register those players through the OVA's online registration system the first week of September.

**Re-signed athletes are committed to the club for the season and are NOT permitted to attend any additional tryouts for other clubs.**

## TRYOUT PERIOD

A tryout is defined as an event where a club has on court activities for athletes involving team selection and/or physical testing.

Clubs may ONLY offer athletes a position on their team via the OVA Offer Form. If there are any changes in the terms, or there is a failure to meet the terms in the agreement/offer it may be voided

Offers can be returned at any time but they are only honoured for 36 hours or until the date and time indicated on the offer form, which ever is longer.

## OVA OFFER FORM

This form is intended to standardize how an offer (position on a team) is presented to an athlete during the tryout period. Offers can be sent out at any time during the try out or re-signing periods. Once an offer form is presented, it must be honoured until the deadline stated in the policy. Athletes can accept the offer anytime after it is received, until the noted deadlines.

Returning a signed offer form is considered an official commitment to a club. Clubs then can proceed with online registration and fee collection.

Early Re-signing offers, June 1<sup>st</sup> to Aug 31<sup>st</sup>, must be honoured until 8:00 PM on Aug 31<sup>st</sup> or a minimum of 36 hours from the time indicated on the offer form, which ever is longer.

Re-signing offers must be honoured for 36 hours from the time indicated on the form.

Try out offers must be honoured for 36 hours or until the date and time indicated on the offer form, which ever is longer.

## **OFFICIAL ATHLETE COMMITMENT**

Athletes are free to try out for any team until they have officially re-signed or signed with a club. An athlete is committed to a club for one season (signing date through May 31st).

Verbal commitments made at any time are non-binding. Signing the OVA offer form is the only commitment the OVA will recognize, and it must be dated within the appropriate period.

Athletes found attending additional tryouts after returning a signed offer form to a club will be found in violation of this policy and may be subject to sanctions as outlined below.

## **CLUB FEES**

Clubs may only collect fees once the athlete is committed to the club. Instalment plans are permitted, and it is strongly recommended that a club contract is signed, which outlines the fee structure and services provided to the athlete.

Parents/Guardians are strongly urged to familiarize themselves with the clubs' financial policies prior to committing to a club for the season.

## **CONCLUSION OF THE TRYOUT PERIOD**

Clubs are permitted to hold additional tryouts to fill any open spots on their rosters. New players can be registered in NRS until February 1<sup>st</sup>. All athletes and team staff must be registered members of the OVA to be eligible to participate and or compete in any OVA sanctioned events. A sanctioned event also includes club practices. Registering all participants as OVA members by their first practice ensures that they are covered by the OVA insurance policy.

## **ADHERENCE**

The OVA reserves the right to investigate any possible tryout window infractions regardless of how the OVA learns about the incident. This is a self-policing policy and all OVA members are obligated to report any infractions and cooperate fully with the investigation. If the OVA determine that an offense has occurred, there will be a fine of \$500 per occurrence and any of the following sanctions may also be imposed, depending on the severity of the offense:

- Letter of reprimand
- Indefinite suspension of the individual, team and/or club from OVA events, beginning from the date when the investigation concludes
- Individuals, teams, and/or clubs suspended for more than one year must apply in writing for reinstatement as a member in good standing. Approval for reinstatement will be contingent upon a full review of the application by the OVA
- An individual, team and/or club may appeal a sanction or fine through the OVA Appeals Policy

When reporting a possible infraction please include the following information:

- Date of infraction and Offending club
- Any type of objective documentation that supports a violation to the policy, includes but not limited to:
  - Website links and or Social media posts
  - Emails and or texts
  - Publications (newspaper ads, flyers etc.)
  - Receipts
- Contact information for the person reporting the incident

All complaints can be forwarded to [info@ontariovolleyball.org](mailto:info@ontariovolleyball.org)