



July 19, 2021

To: Vegas United Athletes, Families & Coaches

Fr: Robert Rios

RE: Program Growth

I am thrilled to announce we have formed a new alliance for the 2021-2022 season which is consistent with our founding initiative. Vegas United Volleyball Club originated in the unification of three programs all focused on the same principles. We were concerned by the proliferation of “clubs”, the dissolution of the athlete talent pool, and the lack of coaching professionals to support player development.

This year we see the fruits of our efforts with two of our girls’ teams reaching the medal round on the final day of Girls’ Junior National Championships, one of our boys’ teams reaching the medal round on the final of Boys’ Junior National Championships, and two medals from the 2021 USA Junior National Championships: silver for 17Navy girls and bronze for 16Navy boys.

Every 2021 senior who wanted to continue their playing opportunities in college has earned the opportunity! Despite the real-world challenges amplified by a global pandemic altering competitions and closing down nearly all recruiting opportunities, our athletes and staff worked smarter to ensure a promising future for our athletes.

The Las Vegas landscape is still experiencing a dizzying expansion of teams. We were thrilled several years ago when successful coach and former Olympian, Charlene Johnson chose Vegas United. And this year, successful coach and former Olympian Bob Samuelson joined our program. Both made immediate impacts and both chose to blend their gifts and talents with an already existing, successful and proven Las Vegas establishment. Vegas United might have been founded in 2016 but the organizations which merged were each a decade or more old giving the “new club” a combined history in excess of 35-years.

We embrace and take seriously the responsibility of representing the best of Las Vegas. As such, we are thrilled to announce our newest alliance with Vegas Aces. We will spend the 2021-2022 season operating parallel as we meticulously plan our unification in the 2022-2023 season. The Vegas Aces program is as committed to excellence and success as we are. What’s coming?

- **More of the same, only better** - By combining our resources, talent pool, coaching staffs, organizational strengths, and vast volleyball relationships, we can set targeted goals to help our athletes and families.
- **Wider reach** - We have already started a search for a new facility in Las Vegas’ northwest.
- **Greater attention** - We will have the ability to ensure each person is in the right seat, each program has dedicated leadership and every team has committed coaching.
- **National appeal** - Each program has already gained national attention with Las Vegas athletes. Leveraging our relationships and successes will benefit more Las Vegas athletes.

We are excited for the upcoming season, the opportunity to begin our new relationship, and embrace the opportunity to change the Las Vegas volleyball landscape for the better through unification...again!