



Epic Families,

Epic will be entering its 9<sup>th</sup> year as a club. We are transforming our program into an **Academy** dedicated to the serious volleyball athletes of Racine and Southeast Wisconsin. Our specialized training aims to maximize your child's athletic potential through a holistic, team-oriented approach to athlete development. As the first of its kind in our area, we proudly offer a unique training environment that prioritizes skill advancement and teamwork over politics, ensuring your child receives the best possible experience.

### **What to Expect in 2025-2026?**

Last year Epic increased the amount of training and oversight we provided to all our teams. See below for some of the things you can expect if you become a part of Epic this season.

- Junior Olympic Teams -this is similar to the national teams, with additional bonuses. They will practice 3 nights a week (after a single day or no tournament weekend) and have additional training to prepare for national competitions in June.
- Positional Training - specialized position coaches and weekly clinics that offer dedicated sessions focused on the skills and techniques required for each position.
- High-Rep Training - a practice structure that maximizes touches on the ball, focusing on skill repetition and muscle memory incorporated by a range of drills that emphasize different aspects of the game.
- Team Systems - teach players advanced offensive systems and defensive schemes while using video analysis to help players understand and improve their game strategies.
- Full Team Hudl with video stat breakdown with recruiting profile for the top HS Girls teams in each age group.
- Premium recruiting services with a full-time recruiting director available to meet with players and parents.
- Junior Olympic teams traveling to AAU National Championships in Orlando.
- Directors working with different teams on a weekly basis to collaborate on practice plans and offer additional coaching perspectives and oversight.

## Season Offerings for 2025-2026

When selecting a club to invest in, ask yourself which priorities are important and where you feel most valued. At Epic, we understand that everyone has different talent levels, goals, and ambitions. We plan to have teams to cater to the needs of all our customers again in 2025-2026.

### Girls Season's

- **National Girls Season** -The teams playing this schedule will play until mid to late June with 3 overnight travel tournaments ending with AAU Championships in Orlando FL.
- **Club Level Season (HS Teams Only)**- These teams will play a schedule with two travel tournaments and a season that ends mid-April at the JVA World Challenge in Louisville KY
- **Regional Girls Season**- These teams will have a shorter season, ending mid to late March with no overnight travel tournaments.

### Boys Teams

*All HS boys teams 15U-18U be National teams that will travel to Orlando in June.*

- **14 Youth**- These teams will play a schedule that ends in late March to early April.
- **HS National** - These teams will have two overnight travel tournaments and will end their season in late June at the AAU National Championships in Orlando FL.

## Retention Offers for 2025-2026

For the 2025-2026 season, Epic decided to utilize the Badger Region's Retention Period. We feel in order to stay competitive; we need to utilize this opportunity for the upcoming season. The offers that were given out were NOT given out for specific teams. This means that every level team has openings for new and returning players for the upcoming 25-26 season.

We want to make sure that any new players to the club understand that they have the same and equal chance to make the team they earn a spot for as any returning player to the club.

## WHAT AGE GROUP TO REGISTER FOR

USA Volleyball made a change in the age definitions last summer, changing the cut-off date from Sept 1st to July 1st. The easiest way for you to know which age group to try out for is to look at the diagram below.

***\*\*\*Epic strongly encourages its players to remain with their peers and play with their grade. There may be some special exceptions that we will deal with on a case-by-case basis. If you have any questions, please contact us.***

2025 - 2026 USAV Age Guidelines										
	18U (1)	18U (2)	17U	16U	15U	14U	13U	12U	11U	10U
July	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
August	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
September	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
October	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
November	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
December	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
January	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
February	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
March	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
April	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
May	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
June	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1 Players who were born on or after July 1, 2006 and a high school student in the twelfth (12th) grade or below during some part of the current academic year are eligible to compete in 18 & under.										
2 Female Only - Players who were born on or after July 1, 2007, (who are defined as 18 & under by the USAV Age Definition) and are in the 11th grade for the current academic year are waived to compete in 17 & under. (This age waiver is based on recruiting concerns for 11th grade girls previously required to participate in girls 18's qualifiers and the 18's GJNC.)										

## What is the Tryout process?

Epic volleyball will hold tryouts over a two-day period for 4 hours, in some cases more. We want to be able to see the players for as much time as possible so that we can make the best decision for the athletes and our Club. Our foundational values are talent, effort, communication and teammate skills. These are the traits we find most important when looking at any future Epic players. Teams will be formed in the best manner possible to balance skill level with positional need and depth.

Cost for Tryouts will be \$45 and will cover both days. Each player will be given a tryout T-shirt that they are expected to wear both days so they can be evaluated most effectively.

## Will players know who the coaches are for their teams at Tryouts?

With the change of tryouts moving from late fall to mid-summer, we hope to have the majority of our coaching staff set by then. There may be some teams that we need to solidify a coach for after the completion of tryouts.

## Can players tryout for older age groups?

Players must be given permission to tryout with an older age group before attending. We want to make the strongest teams we can, and sometimes this means moving players amongst the age groups to increase positional depth or athleticism. However, this will be a decision that will be made by the Epic Directors and staff and will be made at our discretion and in an Invite-Only format. We feel that, in most cases, it is much better for the athletes to play within their age groups and that is the direction we would push most players to be in. If you have an interest in playing in a higher age group, please contact us in advance so we can discuss with you and advise on options.

## How many players will be on a team?

We believe that a club team should have no more than 11 players, however, 10 players is the number we shoot for with the majority of our teams. In some instances, a team may have fewer than 10. However, there may be some boys teams that have upwards of 12 players.

## What if I don't get an offer at tryouts?

We do our best to give every player an offer we can fit on to one of our teams, however, sometimes we just do not have enough players to form another team and have to be fair to the players who have earned the right to receive an offer ahead of you, but please keep in mind a few things:

- Just because you didn't receive an offer during tryouts does not necessarily mean you will not be able to be a part of our program.
- As players start to accept and decline offers, we need to know who is next in line to receive an offer that is declined by another player. **This could be you**, in which case we will either call or email you to give you that offer.
- If you receive an email or phone call with an offer, the directors will discuss with you how much time you have to make that decision before we need to move on.

## **Do we offer positional training?**

Yes! Every week we will offer a 1.5-2 hours high-rep or positional practice based on age group/level. They will be mandatory for all Junior Olympic teams as a third night of practice each week. **\*\*\*Positional practices will only be offered to players who are playing on a team as indicated on the club offerings grid**

## **How long is the season?**

Our season will begin with tryouts in July and practices shall start the first week of December. Regional seasons will end in Mid-March. Club level teams will play until mid to late April. National teams will continue on to AAU Championships in Orlando at the middle to the end of June.

## **Is playing time guaranteed?**

We feel it is the responsibility of the club and our coaching staff to have a contributing role for each player that is chosen for a team. It is a directive from our club leadership that each coach take responsibility for ensuring this with their team and that all players have a defined role as long as they comply with our practice rules and sportsmanship guidelines that will be set forth by the club.

## **If I am a multi-sport athlete at my school, can I still play for your club?**

Most Definitely! The majority of our coaching staff were 3 sport athletes in high school, and we all feel that this has helped us to become the athletes we wanted to be, so we have no problem with players in other sports in conjunction with ours. The schedule can get complicated, but with a little communication between the athletes and the coaches, we can accommodate all athletes that have a passion for the sport of volleyball.

## **How many tournaments will be played and where?**

Regional teams will play in 7-9 tournament dates of volleyball a season within a 2 hour radius of our area, most will be within 30 minutes or less. Elite Season teams will play 12-14 dates and end in Mid-April at the JVA World Championships in Louisville KY. National teams may play 20 or more tournament dates and have at least 3 overnight travel event, ending in mid-to-late June at the AAU Orlando FL. Please see our CLUB OFFERS GRID for more information.

## **What is the process for attending a travel tournament for the National Teams?**

We will have all of our tournaments for the season picked out prior to tryouts. Our Travel coordination team will have hotels prepared for each event and that information will be distributed to the teams early in the season so families can make reservation and book lodging in advance and we can save as a block.

## **Do we assist in the college recruiting process?**



Absolutely! Evan Berg is our full-time director who has previously coached at the D1 level and knows what it takes to get recruited to play college volleyball at any level. He is always available to make appointments with you to help go through the process and create personalized goals and timeline plan.

“Colleges want to recruit YOU, not the team you play for, the coach or the parents. They want to know if YOU will be a good fit for them, so my goal is to educate every family about the process as much as possible so they can make informed decisions and ask the right questions.” -Evan Berg

## Are we Eligible for a Refund?

The short answer is yes, with some conditions. The club itself does not offer any refunds. However, we have communicated with a couple Sports Insurance companies that offer plans that families are able to invest in. These plans are based on a % of the total club fees and cover some of the following items. Below are the two companies we have communicated with that you can read about.

**\*\*\*You are not obligated to purchase an insurance plan. However, If you choose not to opt into a plan, you will not be eligible for any refunds related to circumstances covered by the companies below.**

 <p><b>USSCI</b><sup>™</sup> Sports Fee Insurance US SPORTS CLUB INSURANCE</p>	 <p><b>SPORTS</b> <b>REFUND</b> Can't play? Don't pay.</p>
<p>To read more, get estimate or sign up click <a href="https://jva.sportsfees.us/">https://jva.sportsfees.us/</a></p>	<p><a href="#">SportsRefund Estimate</a> or watch this short video (<a href="https://vimeo.com/349074633">https://vimeo.com/349074633</a>)</p>

## Are there Fundraising opportunities?

Yes! We want to make fundraising easy for everyone and also give players the best chance to receive a reduced rate for their season or to have their fees totally covered.

Continuing this year, we will be partnering with Snap! Raise to help raise money for the players and club season fees. We will have a representative on site at tryouts to give a demonstration of the quick and easy process to sign up and raise money.

We will also continue to sell advertising on the backs of our Practice Jerseys for the season. Each player will receive two (2) t-shirts that they will be expected to wear to all of our practices and everyone is encouraged to obtain sponsorships from businesses that will allow them to have their logo on the back of our practice Jerseys.

Epic volleyball will pass along 50% of all money raised through the sponsorship back to the player that obtained it. Epic will use the other half to help with the purchase of all practice T-shirts for every player. All payments from sponsors will be collected online through a direct registration for the 2025-2026 season.

[Click Here to download the full T-Shirt Sponsorship form](#)

[Click Here to submit a sponsorship payment](#)

Sponsorship levels are as follows:

Platinum - \$1000 sponsorship – player gets \$500 off their season fees.

Gold - \$500 Sponsorship – player gets \$250 off their season fees.

Silver - \$250 sponsorship – player gets \$125 off their season fees.

## Stay active on social media with us!

**We love interacting with our EPIC athletes and families and sharing everything EPIC from the gym. Follow us on:**



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