



BADGER

REGION VOLLEYBALL

Family Guide to Club Volleyball

2016-2017 Season

As of August 18, 2016

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Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

Our Mission Statement:

The Badger Region Volleyball Association promotes initiatives for safe, structured and fun life-long volleyball experiences!

Table of Contents

Welcome	
What is Club Volleyball?	3
SafeSport and Coaching Requirements	3
New Members To USA Volleyball	3-4
Tips on selecting a club	
Member registration	
Returning Members To USA Volleyball	5
Tryout and Commitment Policy and Dates	5
Junior Player / Club Contact Policy	6
Frequently Asked Questions	6-8
Once The Season Gets Under Way	8
Practices, Playing Time and Travel	
First Aid	
Nutrition	
When and Where Is The Team Playing?	
Professional Referees and Scorers	9
Badger Region-Hosted Tournaments	9
Club-Hosted Tournaments	9
Badger Region High Performance	9
USA Volleyball	9
Spectator/Parent Code of Conduct	9-10
In Closing	10



Welcome

The Badger Region Volleyball Association (BRVA) is one of 40 regions of USA Volleyball, representing players, coaches, officials and other volleyball enthusiasts in the state Wisconsin. There are more than 100 [clubs](#) to choose from in Badger Region for the 2016-2017 season.

We are constantly striving to make each club volleyball season better and help our parents and players understand what club volleyball is all about. [Click here for contact information for the Badger Region staff.](#)

What is Club Volleyball?

Club volleyball is an opportunity to play volleyball outside of high school or middle school-sponsored activities. Families pay to join a volleyball club that arranges for team practices, coaches, uniforms, insurance, and other items, and also for tournaments that the team will play in, competing against other clubs. A club may have one total team or many, and may have one team per age level, or multiple.

Club volleyball begins in either October for players 14 and under, or at the completion of the high school volleyball season in November for those 15 and over, and continues through the USA Volleyball Girls' and Boys' Junior National Championships at the end of June or beginning of July. Players from all over the state try out for different clubs as a way to continue playing volleyball year-round.

A tryout is an assessment of the athlete's ability and skill level, how well an athlete learns from instruction, and how well they play with others. Each club determines its own teams and members as well as tournament and travel schedule; some travel a great deal while others stay more local.

USA Volleyball is the National Governing Body (NGB) for volleyball for the United States and has 40 independently-run regions throughout the country. As a Region of USA Volleyball, Badger Region is the umbrella organization of the clubs in Wisconsin and operates as a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Badger Region sets policy, implements USAV and independent education programs, provides insurance and operates various tournaments and championships. The clubs themselves are also independent business organizations, implementing their own policies and are in charge of their own finances. When a player becomes a member of a Badger Region-sanctioned club, they also become a member of Badger Region and USA Volleyball.

SafeSport and Coaching Requirements

We all have a role to play in providing a healthy setting for volleyball, mentally, physically and emotionally. The USA Volleyball SafeSport Program raises awareness about possible misconduct in our sport. Learn [more](#) here and visit our [Badger Region SafeSport page](#).

We're proud to say that every adult in USA Volleyball who will be working with a junior volleyball player (defined as a player 18 or under) is required to pass a very strict background screen every two seasons. This includes club directors, tournament directors, coaches and officials. In addition, every coach is required to attend a coaching clinic called [IMPACT](#), which is at least four hours.

If you have any concerns about how your child, or another child, is being treated, contact your club director immediately, and then contact the Badger Region office. Addressing a situation swiftly is the best course of action.

New Members To USA Volleyball

A brand new player is defined as a person who has never participated in USA Volleyball before. If you have attended a tryout or other event in the past, you would be considered a "Returning Member."

Selecting a club is a family decision and takes some research. Although our clubs must abide by general Badger Region and USA Volleyball rules, each club is different in the way they run their organization and train their athletes. A comprehensive list of [Tips on Selecting A Club](#) can be found on the Badger Region website, but here are a few:

Tips On Selecting A Club

- What is the club philosophy? To win? To improve? To have fun?
- How many teams do you have at each age level?
- Who are the coaches at my age level?
- What is their background in coaching?
- How is playing time allocated?
- What are your club dues? Is there a payment schedule?
- What is covered/not covered in that fee?
- Are there any other financial obligations? Travel? Fundraising? Uniforms?
- Where, when and how often do you practice?
- Are practices mandatory? What if my child misses a practice? Misses a tournament?
- Are players allowed to play other sports during the club volleyball season?
- How long is your season?
- How far will the team be traveling?
- What does my child want to get out of the club experience?
- Can we afford the program we choose?

Spending time researching your options will help you have the best season possible.

New Member Registration

Before you can step on the court for any tryout or practice, you must become a member of Badger Region/USAV. Your membership covers the insurance, among other things, for sanctioned tryouts, practices and events. The registration system that Badger Region/USA Volleyball uses is called Webpoint.

Please follow these steps to complete your registration:

1. Go to www.BadgerVolleyball.org
2. Click the blue Membership tab on far right of home page
3. Select "New Member Login"
4. Review the different available membership options and select the one that is right for your situation
 - a. We suggest initially purchasing the \$10 Tryout Membership. This will allow your child to try out for up to five (5) clubs.
5. Complete the registration process, leaving the club as "Undecided" until after a formal offer has been made by the club and accepted by you.
6. Print the BRVA/USA Volleyball membership card (after Oct. 1) and take this card to tryouts. Players must also bring the medical release form and concussion form to tryouts. These are linked in Webpoint and also on the [Badger Region website](#).
7. If you have two or more children registering, please note that username and passwords will be different for each child.
8. BRVA/USA Volleyball Membership is non-refundable.

Once selected for a team, you will need to "upgrade" your child's membership for \$40 to a regular junior membership before any further participation is allowed. You've already paid \$10 to try out, now you're just paying the difference for the full junior membership, which is \$50. You will be asked to select the club in place of "undecided." When you login to upgrade, you are a returning member.

If your child is not selected for a team, please visit our "clubs seeking players" page on www.BadgerVolleyball.org, and fill out the information on the "players seeking clubs" page also.

Returning Members To USA Volleyball

Please follow these steps to complete your registration:

1. Go to www.BadgerVolleyball.org
2. Click the blue Membership tab on far right of home page
3. Select "Returning Member Login"
4. Review the different available membership options and select the one that is right for your situation
 - a. We suggest initially purchasing the \$10 Tryout Membership. This will allow your child to try out for up to five (5) clubs.
5. Complete the registration process, leaving the club as "Undecided" until after a formal offer has been made by the club and accepted by you.
6. Print the BRVA/USA Volleyball membership card (after Oct. 1) and take this card to tryouts. Players must also bring the medical release form and concussion form to tryouts. These are linked in Webpoint and also on the [Badger Region website](#).
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If your child is not selected for a team, please visit our "clubs seeking players" page on www.BadgerVolleyball.org, and fill out the information on the "players seeking clubs" page also.

Tryout and Commitment Policy and Dates

While the Badger Region sets an allowable start date for tryouts, each club selects their own tryout schedule. We encourage you to contact each club directly to determine how their tryout process will work. Please see below for the [2015-16 Badger Region Tryout & Commitment Policy and Dates](#).

"Previously registered player" means a player who played for the same club in 2014-15. In other words, if you played for a club in the 2014-15 season and that same club offers you a spot for the 2015-16 season, you are considered a "previously registered player." If another club that you did not play for offers you a spot, you may follow the "all other players" time frame.

. 14 & Under Girls (born Sept. 1, 2002 and after)

- First available date for tryouts: Oct. 1, 2016
- Previously registered players commitment date: Tuesday, Oct. 11
 - o A player will not be required to commit to a club for which they were a registered member the previous season until 9:01 p.m. on Tuesday.
- All other players commitment date: Thursday, Oct. 13
 - o A player will not be required to commit to a club for which they were not a registered member the previous season until 9:01 p.m. on Thursday.
- Commitment dates for all offers made after Oct. 13 is at the discretion of the club.

15 & Older Girls (born Aug. 31, 2002 and before)

- First available date for tryouts: Nov. 14, 2016
- Previously registered players commitment date: Tuesday, Nov. 15
 - o A player will not be required to commit to a club for which they were a registered member the previous season until 9:01 p.m. on Tuesday.
- All other players commitment date: Thursday, Nov. 17
 - o A player will not be required to commit to a club for which they were not a registered member the previous season until 9:01 p.m. on Thursday.
- All offers made after Nov. 17 must be held until 6 p.m. on Nov. 22.

All Boys

- **Boys 14 & Under (born Sept. 1, 2002 and after):** First available date for tryouts: Nov. 18, 2016
- **Boys 15 & Over (born Aug. 31, 2002 and before):** First available date for tryouts: Nov. 19, 2016
- Previously registered players commitment date: Tuesday, Nov. 22
 - o A player will not be required to commit to a club for which they were a registered member the previous season until 9:01 p.m. on Tuesday.
- All other players commitment date: Wednesday, Nov. 23
 - o A player will not be required to commit to a club for which they were not a registered member the previous season until 9:01 p.m. on Wednesday (to avoid Thanksgiving).
- All offers made after Nov. 23 must be held until 6 p.m. on Nov. 28.

As always, players are encouraged to let clubs know of your intentions as soon as the decision has been made – a player does NOT need to wait until the deadline to accept or decline an offer. Individual clubs may choose to extend offer deadlines, at their discretion, or athletes may ask for this extension. Any extensions granted (or not) are the sole responsibility of the individual clubs.

A club program who has given an offer of membership to a player may make one (1) club-initiated follow-up contact with that player between the time of the offer and the subsequent commitment date. A club-initiated contact shall be defined as a phone call, email, text or Facebook message by a representative of the club program making the offer.

Formal acceptance of an offer is determined by when the player selects their chosen club in Webpoint. Players should leave the club selection as “Undecided” until an offer has been made by the club and accepted by the player. Upon official commitment to a club that is registered with Badger Region/USA Volleyball, the athlete must remain with that club/team for the remainder of the Junior Volleyball season. We ask that players/families use ethical standards and not verbally commit to more than one club prior to selection in Webpoint. By doing this, you adversely affect another player who is waiting for an open spot.

Badger Region Junior Player/Club Contact Policy

The Badger Region has a policy regarding when and how clubs can contact junior players and their families. These rules are designed to protect the interests of the player and or/family regarding club contact, and allow players and families to seek information they want from clubs.

There are in-season and off-season definitions and guidelines, as well as what to do if you or your child are receiving unwanted contact from a club. [Please click here for a PDF copy of the Junior Player/Club Contact Policy.](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I best prepare my child for tryouts?

Tryouts can be a very stressful experience as dozens of players may be trying out for teams of 10-12. Our best advice is to have your child well fed and rested before tryouts begin. Also, have a back-up plan in case they are not selected to their first choice. After tryouts, many clubs are still seeking players. Check the “clubs seeking players” page on our website for additional opportunities. Focus on a positive attitude and having fun at tryouts. Coaches and clubs are not only filling a team for skill, but attitude and hard work. While one player, in your eyes, may be a better skilled player, another player may bring more positive intangibles.

Once my child chooses a club, can he/she change her mind and join another club? No, they have made a season-long commitment to that club. Clubs are under no obligation to release players until their season is finished and all financial obligations are met. If both of these conditions are met, players may join another club to finish out the season, abiding by the [Badger Region Player End of Season Release Policy](#) on the junior member forms page of the Badger Region website.

What happens if my child gets injured at practice or at a tournament?

The coach will report the injury immediately to the club or tournament director and seek medical attention if warranted. The director, along with the coach and parent or guardian, will complete an incident report form, which will then be submitted to the Badger Region office. The Badger Region office will verify membership of the player and also the sanction of the event, and submit to the insurance company. If you (the family) choose to file a claim for the secondary insurance, you can download the paperwork from the [Badger Region website forms page](#) and follow the instructions to submit the claim.

I can't print out my membership card yet?

If you have a \$10 tryout membership, the membership card will be available for printing on Oct. 1. If you need to mail documentation of membership prior to that, please send the confirmation and payment email you received.

What are USA Volleyball Age Definitions?

Teams in Badger Region are categorized by using the [USA Volleyball Age Definitions](#) for 2016-17:



USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR PLAYER AGE DEFINITION
For use during the 2016-2017 Season

To determine the correct age division, please find the Month of Birth in the left column and then the year of birth in the same row. The heading of the column matching the Year of Birth is the correct age bracket.

	18 & Under ¹	18 & Under	17 & Under	16 & Under	15 & Under ²	14 & Under	13 & Under	12 & Under	11 & Under	10 & Under	9 & Under	8 & Under
Sept	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Oct	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Nov	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Dec	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Jan	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Feb	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Mar	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Apr	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
May	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
June	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
July	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Aug	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009

¹ Players who were born on or after September 1, 1998 OR players who were born on or after September 1, 1997 and a high school student in the twelfth (12th) grade or below during some part of the current academic year.

² **Male Only** - Players who were born on or after September 1, 2002 OR players who were born on or after September 1, 2001 (15 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the eighth (8th) grade during the current academic year are eligible to play in the 14 & Under division. This exception is based on the net height difference of 7'4 1/8" to 7'11 5/8" between the 14 and Under Division to the 15 and Under Division.

The Age Definition Policy was most recently revised by the USA Volleyball Board of Directors on January 19, 2002.

The classification cut-off date of September 1 was reviewed by the USAV Junior Assembly and the USA Regional Volleyball Association Assembly prior and during the USAV 2016 Annual Meetings and research justified the continuation of the cut-off date of September 1.

Can my child "play up" in an older age division?

Yes, if your child is selected to play on an older team, then he/she can "play up." All rules and regulation of the team age level (ball used, net height) will be followed, regardless of the age of the players.

My child is too old to play on a specific team with his/her school classmates. Can we get an age waiver?

Age waivers are for in-region play only and cannot be used in any national or qualifying tournaments. Either the team cannot compete in these, or your child will not be allowed to play in that tournament. Clubs decide on an individual basis if they will accept age waived players, so please contact the club prior to tryouts to discuss. Age waivers are limited and must be submitted by the club director. Any waiver submitted by a parent will be rejected.

Why does my child have to keep score and line judge?

USA Volleyball believes in teaching players the entire game and that includes officiating. When they are not playing, players will develop leadership skills and knowledge of the game when they assist in officiating. Prior to any competition, clubs are required to instruct their players on proper techniques in refereeing and scoring.

What happens if I don't pay my child's club dues?

A Junior Club player (and their family) must remit all club fees as specified by their club/team, within the club's scheduled time frame. If fees are unpaid at the end of the club's season, the club director may use any legal means necessary to obtain payment (ex., a collection agency).

Nonpayment will result in the athlete's name being submitted to the Badger Region office, resulting in the athlete being restricted from registering for a future season with any USAV Region until the fees are paid.

A letter requesting payment that includes the parent's name, player's name, player's age level and notification of this policy must be sent to the family and a copy to the region office. Club directors must notify the region office immediately when payment has been made and the hold can be released.

The payment circumstances are between the club and the family, the Region does not get involved in financial disputes. We encourage both clubs and families to get everything in writing, and discuss issues as soon as possible.

For more parent information, please visit the [USA Volleyball parent resource information website](#).

Once The Season Gets Under Way

You will more than likely be responsible to get your child to and from practices and tournaments, and being on time, or early, is important. Club coaches are responsible for the care and safety of your child until you arrive to pick them up. Most clubs also rent practice space, so if you're late, they may be obligated to pay for an additional hour of facility rent.

Encourage your child to speak to their coach if they're concerned about practice drills, skills and/or playing time. Almost all coaches want to speak directly with the player about playing time, not the parent. It is better to address questions or concerns early before they potentially spiral out of control.

Find like-minded parents to car pool with and arrange for travel on the road. Club volleyball becomes less expensive and more fun when families share travel expenses and experiences.

First Aid

Not all practices or tournaments will have a certified athletic trainer available. Many club coaches will carry a team first aid kit, but it's a good idea to have your own, just in case. Some suggested items: Band Aids, athletic tape and pre-wrap (in case of ankle sprains), antiseptic wipes/ spray, cold packs, elastic bandages (to wrap ice on sprains), blister pads, pain relief (Advil, Aleve, etc.), large Ziploc bag to hold ice, lip balm and hand sanitizer.

Nutrition

Please [click here](#) for an important article on nutrition. Prepare your child with healthy snacks for the way to and from practices, and also during long tournaments where sometimes the food isn't the greatest. And don't forget food and snacks for yourself!

Where And When Is The Team Playing?

In Badger Region, tournament directors are directed to have the tournament schedule available the Wednesday prior to the event. There are a lot of moving pieces to running a tournament, including reformatting the event when a team drops, which changes everything. Most tournament directors will either send out an email to the club/coach or post the schedule (or a link to the schedule) on their website. Please do not question the tournament director. Your coach should provide you with the information, or take the lead in getting it. Most likely, play will start at 8 a.m., so be prepared to be on-site by 7 a.m., and prepare to stay for most of the day.

Many parents enjoy volleyball weekends and like to treat volleyball tournaments like a tailgate. We all love tailgates, but remember **no alcohol** should be brought to junior volleyball events. Each facility has a specific food and drink policy. An easy rule of thumb: **Water only in the gym**. If someone from the facility or tournament staff asks you to remove some items from the gym, please do so immediately, or you will risk being removed from the event or having the police called.

Violations of the food and drink policies can lead to penalties for teams (even if parents or fans are the violators). Not knowing the rules is not an excuse for breaking them.

Professional Referees and Scorers

Badger Region always welcomes individuals who are interested in becoming a professional (paid) referee or scorer. [Please click here for more information.](#)

Please note that the work crews (the team line judging and working the score table) are NOT professional officials, so treat them with the respect you would wish for your own child. Especially at the younger age groups, players are still learning how to perform the various tasks. We encourage parents to become trained in order to help out, or at least have knowledge of the rules. [Please click here for training materials for junior players.](#)

Badger Region-Hosted Tournaments

- [Badger Region Qualifier](#)
The qualifier is for teams who wish to earn a bid to the USA Volleyball Girls Junior National Championships. Click the link above to learn more, including the date.
- [Badger Region Championships](#)
A 32-court tournament to determine the top team in the state! Different age divisions are on different weekends. Click the link above to learn more, including the dates.

Club-Hosted Tournaments

Many of our clubs elect to host their own tournaments. These are called “club-hosted” tournaments. While Badger Region sanctions (approves) these events, the club manages these tournaments. There are different entities that run tournaments within Badger Region, and our insurance coverage and other policies only apply to Badger Region-sanctioned events. A list of these can be found on our [website](#).

Badger Region High Performance (BRHP)

The Badger Region is proud to sponsor a very successful High Performance program for boys and girls. The age divisions are set by the FIVB (the international governing body of the sport) and change yearly. This program is designed to be an all-star program, with tryouts held in March in conjunction with the Badger Region Championships, a camp and training sessions in the early summer, and then high-level competition at the USA Volleyball High Performance Championships in July. [Click here to learn more about the BRHP program.](#)

USA Volleyball

Recognized by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) as the leader for the sport of volleyball in the United States, USA Volleyball provides a host of services and information, as well as a connection to our [National and Olympic Teams](#). There are different educational opportunities for [coaches](#) and [officials](#), [indoor](#) and [outdoor](#) championships and competitions as well as blogs and information on [grassroots volleyball](#) and how to [“Grow The Game”](#) from some of the best minds in the volleyball world.

- USA Volleyball: www.USAVolleyball.org
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USAVolleyball>
- Videos: <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Volleyball/Video>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/usavolleyball>

Badger Region/USA Volleyball Spectator/Parent Code of Conduct

The [Badger Region/USAV Spectator Code of Conduct](#) should be posted at every facility during a Badger Region-sanctioned event. Please take a moment to read what is expected of you as a spectator, and the ramifications for unacceptable behavior.

Badger Region / USA Volleyball Spectator/Parent Code of Conduct

I will:

- I will abide by the official rules of USA Volleyball.
- I will display good sportsmanship at all times.
- I will encourage my child and his/her team, regardless of the outcome on the court.
- I will educate myself on the unique rules of this facility.
- I will honor the rules of the host and the host facility.
- I will generate goodwill by being polite and respectful to those around me at this event.
- I will direct my child to speak directly with his/her coach when coaching decisions are made that may be confusing or unclear. I will redirect any negative comments from others to the respective event director or program administrator. I will direct all concerns regarding officials to the head coach or club director for my team/club as opposed to the head official directly.
- I will immediately notify the event director and/or program administrator in the event that I witness any illegal activity.
- I will support the policies and guidelines of the team/club that I represent.
- I will acknowledge effort and good performance, remembering that all of the players in this event are amateur athletes.
- I will model exemplary spectator behavior while attending this event.
- I will respect the history and tradition of the sport of volleyball by being a good ambassador.

I will not:

- I will not harass or intimidate the officials.
- I will not coach my child from the bleachers and/or sidelines
- I will not criticize my child's coach or his/her teammates.
- I will not participate in any game or game-like activities (including on-court ball shagging) unless I have a current membership card with USA Volleyball.
- I will not bring and/or carry any firearms at any region event.
- I will not bring, purchase or consume alcohol at any youth/junior volleyball event.

Event management may refuse admission to, or eject without refund, anyone who is deemed disorderly, or who fails to comply with these guidelines or any and all security measures and laws.

Spectators assume all risks incident to the game, or related events and activities, including the risk of lost, stolen or damaged property or personal injury.

In Closing

Club volleyball can be the most fun parents and kids have together in middle and high school years, so focus on the road trips and time together, and watch your child become an athlete and a leader. It's their road, but you can enjoy the ride. We want your child to have a great experience this year, and hopefully continue to play the sport we all love for a lifetime.

If there is information that you feel would aid other parents in navigating the club volleyball world, please email the ideas to Jennifer Armson-Dyer at jen@badgervolleyball.org.

For additional information, please visit our website, www.BadgerVolleyball.org, and don't hesitate to [contact the Region Office or Board of Directors representative](#) with questions!