



Welcome to the North Texas Region Tryout process. The North Texas Region is one of 40 regions across the United States that supports junior volleyball under the USA Volleyball parent organization. Each region has its own process for clubs to select players and form teams to compete in local, regional, and national competitions.

This document is a guide to help you and your child make the most out of the North Texas Region club tryout process and make your experience an enjoyable and rewarding one. Your involvement in the process leading up to the official offer date will help to minimize frustrations and better assure finding a club that fits your needs and your child's level of play.

If this is your first time to navigate thru the tryout process you are not alone. Even veteran parents often find the process difficult. There are many choices of clubs, practice locations, levels of play, travel, etc. We hope to give you a foundation of ideas to work with, considerations you may not have explored, and avenues of research in an effort to make your choice of clubs right for you and your child.

Getting Started Within this document there will be links to pages within the North Texas Region web site. Please follow these links and familiarize yourself with the layout as this is where most all of your research will take place. Take the time to do your research and feel free to reach out to the clubs or the region for guidance.

Registration

All players, as well as coaches and adult volunteers must be registered before participating in any sanctioned events including any sanctioned

clinics or tryouts. The most common registrations are for NEW MEMBERS and RENEWING MEMBERS. The USAV registration system (WebPoint) opens for registration on September 1 each season. Please complete this registration process as early as possible.

When registering you will be asked to choose a club. Until you have accepted an offer and at or after the offer date, you will enter “undecided.” After the offer date for your athlete’s age group, you can go back into the registration website and select the appropriate club.

For more information regarding the registration process please go to this Web Point link: <http://ntrvolleyball.net/registration3/>

Select “NEW MEMBER” for first time to register.

Select “RENEWING MEMBER” if you have registered in previous years.

Do Your Homework

The frustrations within youth sports are almost always tied to expectations not being met. This could be the expectation of playing time for the athlete. It could be the expectation of the club that the athlete is fully committed and will never miss practices. It could be any number of expectations that are not communicated early on.

Be sure that you have contacted each club in which you are interested and that you have read everything they have published about their policies and the upcoming season. Knowing what each club provides for their cost, knowing their schedule, knowing their playing time policy, knowing the coach and their bio, and knowing other details will help curtail any frustrations later in the process and later in the season.

Volleyball is a sport that requires high levels of skill and athleticism. Being honest about your child’s current abilities will reduce frustration and help you to avoid wasting valuable time by attending tryouts and clinics that are outside your child’s reach.

Attending clinics hosted by the clubs that you have chosen is a good way to measure your child's abilities with other players in their age group. You can also ask the Coaches where they feel your child would best be suited regarding playing position and level of play..

Verbal offers will be handed out through the entire process (more on that later). The frequency of the offers you receive and where you receive them will give you a good indication of the level at which your athlete should be playing.

Narrow Your Search

Searching for clubs begins on the Juniors Club page.

<http://ntrvolleyball.net/junior-clubs/>

All clubs in the North Texas Region are listed and have links to those clubs that maintain web sites. You can locate clubs alphabetically or grouped by geography.

Once you have determined the clubs you wish to focus on, learn as much as you can about them by visiting their website, speaking with other parents who are familiar with the clubs, and players that have been with them during previous seasons.

The club's web site should give you all the information about their upcoming season. You'll want to know the following information:

- How much the entire season will cost you
- What they provide you for that cost
 - What is in their uniform package
 - Are there other costs once the season starts
- Do they compete locally only or are there additional travel expenses to consider
- What are the practice dates, times, and locations
- How many tournaments do they participate in
- How many players do they usually take on each team
- What are their playing time and club policies
- Who is the coach in your age group and what is their bio

After you have determined which two or three clubs best suit your family, you should reach out to those clubs and ask about their spots for their teams in your age group. You should find out what spots are available and have not yet been offered.

Attend Club Clinics Prior to the Offer Day

The best information you can gain will come from participating with the club and coach you are interested in during their clinics. The Coaches are able to see your child's abilities and have a better understanding of their skill level prior to tryouts. The more the coaches are able to see your athlete, the better informed they will be as to where you best fit in their club.

Many offers are made at clinics. The Offer Process will be discussed in more detail below.

Attend Parent Information Meetings

Some clubs offer one or more parent information meetings prior to offer date. Clubs will give you information about themselves that may not be on the web site and they will give you the opportunity to ask questions that you still have unanswered. Many other Parents will ask questions that you may not have considered. This is also a great time to mingle with returning families and meet coaches outside of a clinic setting. The North Texas Region web site has a link for all Clubs that gives you dates / times / locations of their Parent information meetings:

http://ntr.vstarvolleyball.com/Internet/club_tryout_list.php

The Offer Process and Offer Date

The rules surrounding the Offer Date can be found in the Junior Handbook. Each age group has an Offer Date. This date is defined as the earliest date at which a written offer may be made for any team for the upcoming USAV season. It is also the earliest that any commitment to any club on the USAV registration site (WebPoint) will be acknowledged by the region. Prior to this date verbal offers may be made and accepted, and you may select your club on the registration site (after September

1); however, this offer and acceptance will not be acknowledged by the region until the listed date. The dates for each age group can be found here:

Age Group Definitions:

<http://ntrvolleyball.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2018-Age-Definition-chart-only.pdf>

Age Group Offer and Acknowledgment Dates:

<http://ntrvolleyball.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/OA-2017-2018-draft.pdf>

Verbal offers may be offered at any time, and some clubs will be making verbal offers in July at their clinics. Many clubs will attempt to fill their teams (verbally) well before the Offer and Acknowledgment Date. To maximize your exposure, it helps to attend clinics in July and August with the clubs that you are interested in to get a verbal offer.

The important passages from the handbook concerning this are as follows:

"If any offer is discussed prior to the Offer Date, the offer is not binding for either party, and will not be recognized by the North Texas Region. Prior to the Offer Date, a club (all representatives for a club) is prohibited from presenting/accepting any written offer, and/or accepting any payment for any club dues associated with USAV membership for the upcoming season."

"The Region will not acknowledge any verbal offers and/or offers made prior to the Offer Date."

Some offers will not be handed out until the Offer Date. Most clubs will have a 'clinic' or 'tryout' on the Offer Date. When attending this even make sure you have all the required documentation. You will need proof of USA Volleyball membership through the North Texas Region. You will also need the USAV Medical History and Release form. This form is available here:

<http://ntrvolleyball.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2018-Player-Medical-Release-w-ClubTeam-WITHOUT-Notary.pdf>

After the Saturday event on the Offer Date clubs may make offers to some players. You may have performed very well and did not get an offer but that does not mean the club is not considering you for a position on their team. You will want to make sure you continue to stay in contact with the coach and the club to let them know if you are still interested in their club or if you take an offer with someone else.

If the club makes you an offer during the Offer Day event using the Offer and Acceptance form provided by the region, then you have the option to accept immediately or wait to accept and attend other Offer Date events at other clubs. If the club has multiple teams in your age group and you were given an offer for a particular team (such as the National team) that team's name (designation) will be written on the "team" line of the form. If you accept and you have signed this form then you cannot accept any other offer from any other club.

If during this process you are given a written offer by the Director and you decide to wait before making your decision you have until the Sunday of the Offer Date weekend at noon to accept the offer or the offer expires. This does not mean that the offer is necessarily invalid, it simply means that the club is not obligated at that point to honor it.

During this entire process, please be mindful of other athletes as they also pursue positions with the same clubs you are trying out for. If you were given a written offer from each club on your list and you did not accept any of them in a timely manner you could possibly be blocking other athletes from having an opportunity to get offers from the Club of their choice.

Follow this link to the North Texas Region web site for more information: <http://ntrvolleyball.net/junior-clubs-information-1/>

After the Offer Date

Many athletes will not get offered during the legal window for a variety of reasons. The clubs you were trying out for were returning with players from last season with only a few positions available, the club needed setters and you are a defensive specialist, your skills were not at the level of the team you were seeking, etc. Regardless of the reason there are always players that did not sign with a club.

The North Texas Region web site has a link called “Clubs needing Players” :

http://ntr.vstarvolleyball.com/Internet/club_players_needed.phpfor

players that did not get offered during the legal window. Many clubs had made offers to players that waited until the end of the legal window to make their decision. If that athlete was made offers at 3 clubs and accepted one it left 2 clubs with unfilled positions, so do not stop trying if you do not receive an offer at the same time as others.

Club Behavior

Each club is an autonomous member of the North Texas Region and USA Volleyball. Each club conducts their team selection in slightly different ways. Some are more passive choosing to coach the athletes that show up and request training. Other clubs are more aggressive and will actively recruit with phone calls and visits. In each case, it is the responsibility of the athlete’s family to set the limits of what they find acceptable. If you do not like the way you are being treated by a club during this process, then find a club that is different.

If you feel as though any club is breaking the protocols or policies of the North Texas Region, please report them to the region office.

Good Luck to all Athletes in the North Texas Region.

North Texas Region – USA Volleyball

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