

2023 Player/Parent Handbook

Top Caliber Volleyball Club

Welcome!

Welcome to the 2022-2023 Junior Volleyball Season! This handbook will answer some of the questions you may have about Top Caliber Volleyball Club, the Carolina Region, and USAV (USA Volleyball).

A Little Inspiration.....

“YOU CAN'T CHEAT
THE GRIND.
IT KNOWS HOW MUCH
YOU HAVE INVESTED.
IT WON'T GIVE YOU
ANYTHING YOU
HAVEN'T WORKED FOR.”

Introduction

Top Caliber Volleyball Club was founded in 2020 during the pandemic to have a place where a group of 12 girls could fulfill their passion even during unprecedented times. Since then, in the 2021-2022 season, the club grew from 12 girls to 97. This included 9 teams of ages 12-18. TCVC has also offered camps, clinics, private lessons, and leagues for athletes of all ages.

The intent of the club is to offer a place for athletes all over eastern NC to come and learn and enhance their skills as well as creating a positive team culture for everyone. Top Caliber has open tryouts and is open to any dedicated player who is wanting to tryout for the club!

Introduction Continued....

The number of teams that we create is driven by the number of girls who tryout, the gym space available, and the number of QUALIFIED coaches that we are able to obtain. Although our goal is to find a team for everyone, that isn't always a possibility.

Our handbook is designed to educate you about our club, our coaching philosophy, and how to be successful in the Top Caliber Volleyball organization. We hope this handbook will provide you with information that will be useful to your decision on playing with Top Caliber Volleyball Club this season.

Mission Statement

Top Caliber Volleyball Club is committed to providing our athletes with the best quality coaching staff available to develop and improve their volleyball skills through practices and competitions. Athletes from all levels are encouraged to participate, including beginning players all the way to advanced levels. TCVC promotes teamwork, sportsmanship, culture, and success on and off the court. We also promote FUN.

Club Administration

- Bryan Waters- Co-Founder, takes care of registering for tournaments and finances
- Nicole Waters- Co-Founder, Master Coach, in charge of the teams and coaches and making sure that practices run smoothly, Recruitment Leader
- Janet Brooks-Office Admin, Fundraising Director
- Jenna Dudding-Scheduler
- Parent Board of Directors
- Lindsey Willis, CPA

Club Culture

Club Culture

Top Caliber Volleyball is looking to build and enhance our club culture. This includes positive attitudes, high standards and expectations from athletes/coaches/parents, a desire to get better AND having fun doing so.

What does our culture look like?

- Team/Club bonding-dinners, outings, scrimmages, matching in practices, themed practices, dancing, cheering, group chat, etc
- Parent Involvement- Sitting together at tournaments, encouraging the girls, waving pom poms, run thru tunnels, cheers, team dinners. Carpooling setup.
- Coaches/Directors- Receiving feedback from parents during the year, keeping kids energized and involved, pick-me-up messages, team and parent accountability
- Open communication, focusing on the process not the outcome (we all want to win, but it is the PROCESS that is important)
- Hard work, team work, respect for one another, leadership, knowing your role

What are we looking for in a player and their family?

1. Attitude
2. Coachability
3. Skill
4. Potential
5. Parents attitude

HOW TO DESTROY A TEAM CULTURE

SHOWING UP LATE
TAKING PLAYS OFF
SLOPPY PRACTICES
POOR EXECUTION
SKIPPING REPS

COMPLAINING ABOUT ROLES
EYE-ROLLING WHEN COACH
TALKS

NOT BEING COACHABLE



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Instagram

Why Play Club Volleyball?

Why Play Club Volleyball?

Over the last 20 years, there has been an increase in the popularity of club volleyball. All over the country, athletes and parents are starting to recognize the benefits volleyball can offer. As a result, more young people are taking up the sport at an earlier age. Athletes who want to commit to playing volleyball need to choose the right volleyball club for them. Once they have done so, they go through the process of tryouts. Then, they receive an assignment to the most appropriate team. Usually, they play alongside others of their own age. Then, the players play and train together and compete in tournaments during their school teams' off-season.

Why Play Club Volleyball Continued....

- The chance to improve their skills. Club volleyball has a long season. And, with so many practices and tournaments, every player sees her skills improve. There is nothing so satisfying as knowing that you're making progress and honing your abilities.
- Learning from a great coach. Most clubs today hire coaches with years of experience. Some have been coaches for a considerable time while others were once players. This gives young players the opportunity to learn from the best. The girls can benefit from their coach's experience and extensive knowledge of the sport.

Why Play Club Volleyball Continued...

- Having the opportunity to play competitively. Who doesn't enjoy a little competition? When you play club volleyball, you have the chance to compete consistently. Whether you're playing practice games or in tournaments, the play level and the amount of competition will be higher. As a result, you'll be better able to compete for a starter position or for playing time back at school.
- Being exposed to college programs and coaches. If you're a player who is enthusiastic to play volleyball at the collegiate level, you must play for a club. Most college coaches admit that recruitment just won't happen via high school sports programs. That means, for any young person to have the potential for scholarship recruitment, they must join a club. With the benefits of being granted a scholarship so obvious, it's no wonder many players want to play club volleyball!

Why Play Club Volleyball Continued...

- Having the opportunity to compete at higher levels. For players who are at high schools that are less competitive, club volleyball opens up their opportunities. Players with good skills can find that they aren't pushed or challenged at such schools. Club volleyball, however, offers the opportunity to play at a more competitive level. Therefore, players are able to experience more challenging levels of play.
- Better physical fitness. When there are two or three practices every week, as well as tournaments lasting a day, fitness improves greatly. Every player builds up her stamina, conditioning, and strength and becomes healthier and fitter.
- Confidence builder!

Why Play Club Volleyball Continued...

- Having the chance to make new like-minded friends with the same interests. At school, not all players will have the same level of commitment to the sport. However, when young people play club volleyball, they will be playing alongside athletes with the same level of interest. This allows for strong friendships to develop, on the court and off it.
- Being able to play their favorite sport for even longer, even when the season at school is over!

<https://www.sealbeachvolleyballclub.com/post/why-play-club-volleyball>

USAV/Carolina Region and Levels of Play

Carolina Region

Top Caliber Volleyball is a member of the **Carolina Region**, one of 40 Regional Volleyball Associations of **USA Volleyball**, the National Governing Body for the sport of volleyball. The Carolina Region is dedicated to promoting all disciplines of the sport of volleyball, developing opportunities, and enhancing participant experiences for all ages from grassroots to elite programs throughout the state of North Carolina.

Fielding Teams

Top Caliber Volleyball hopes to host teams in the following USAV divisions for the 2022-2023 season:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1n1ZoM7cIITe_eJvMwhJKVKN6ytOqoMcEJC9S1L48iJDA/edit?usp=sharing

Levels of Play

Diamond-National

Sapphire-Semi National

Pearl-Regional Plus

Emerald-Regional

Team Evolution-Developmental/Pre-Travel

Team Offerings

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1n1ZoM7cII TeeJvMwhJKVKN6ytOqoMcEJC9S1L48iJDA/edit?usp=sharing>

What is the difference between all of the levels?

- Team Evolution will be our Pre Travel/Developmental program for 14U. Teams will stay local.
- Regional/Emerald teams will compete locally. Most are within a days drive, but may require overnight stays in places such as Elon or Greensboro. This will be up to each family.
- Regional Plus/Pearl teams will compete locally and nationally. This is a step above Regionals.
- Semi National/Sapphire teams will compete locally and nationally. This is our mid level offering. Overnight stay will be required at some of these tournaments.
- National/Diamond is our highest offering and will require multiple overnight stays throughout the season.

Team Evolution

- This is a Pre-Travel/Developmental level team for ages 9-13, tailored to the beginner player. Players in this Junior level learn the fundamental skills of the game, while gaining experience with fun, competitive play.
- Practices are held **once** a week on Sundays at one of our designated gym locations for 1.5 hours.
- Juniors compete in 2 local Tournaments and other local scrimmages.

**Season runs from November-March

**Athletes must attend the 12U tryouts in order to be considered for this program.

11/12U

- Our 11 and 12s are Regional level teams (Emerald). At this level, our players will be given the chance to play competitive volleyball while they refine their fundamental skills and continue to develop a solid learning strategy.
- Practices are held **twice** weekly at one of our designated gym locations.
- This team will compete in six Regional Tournaments, including the Regional Championship.

13s

- We will host a Semi National Team (Sapphire) as well as either a Regional/Regional Plus (Pearl) for our 13s division, depending on tryout numbers. At this level, our players will be given the chance to play competitive volleyball while they refine their fundamental skills and continue to develop a solid learning strategy.
- Practices are held **twice** weekly at one of our designated gym locations.
- Tournament schedule/guide **may be modified** based on final team(s) capabilities.

14s

- This age group will compete in Carolina Region and USAV multi-day tournaments to gain experience at a higher level of play and exposure to the college recruiting process.
- Practices are two-three times weekly at our designated gym locations.
- 14s will compete at the Semi-National level (Sapphire), or the Regional level (Emerald). (See Team Guides)

15s-18s

- These age groups compete to gain experience at a higher level of play and visibility with college coaches and may compete at the National level, Semi-National level, or the Regional Plus/Regional level. (See Team Menus)
- These team practices 2 times weekly at our designated gym locations with biweekly optional skills training that is included in the season fee.
- TCVC 17/18s schedule will be further modified to meet the needs/interests of the athletes as well as the club.

Length of Season

There are some standard season guidelines that the club follows from year-to-year. These guidelines may be adjusted based on the coaching preference, the skill level of the team, and the number of players who continue competing. These standards are:

Diamond Teams – Tournament Play = January-May

Sapphire Teams – Tournament Play = January-April/May

Pearl Teams- Tournament Play= January-April

Emerald Teams-Tournament Play =January-April

Length of Season (Pre Season Open Gyms)

(15s-18s) September-November, every Sunday open play (there will be a minimal required number to attend). These are very important so that our athletes can form a cohesive bond and play at the highest level possible! Mandatory practices will begin in November.

National Championships

For U13-U18 teams with the goal of attending the National Championships, normal guidelines must be followed. These teams must qualify for the tournament, and may not accept a trickle-down bid, unless determined by the Club Admin prior to the regional tournament that an exception may be planned. Due to USAV requirements, the 9-10 committed players must be regular season TCVC (USAV only) players.

For AAU Nationals, a separate tryout will be held in May, with the exception that if a team already formed agrees to go, they will have first priority. We plan on fielding a 14 (possible) 15, 16 and 17U to nationals this year. These tryouts are open to everyone in the area and will be a fair tryout. Just because an athlete was a club member does not give them priority for AAU Nationals unless the skill level is the same or better.

****All TCVC teams that choose to go to AAU Nationals will fundraise as a team for this event. This will include all expenses for the trip (hotel, food, gas, etc.)**

Coaches

Coaches

Each Top Volleyball Club team will have one Head Coach and one assistant coach OR 2 Co-Coaches. Top Caliber Volleyball will also utilize “Floating Coaches” as needed for individual training and for assisting the head coaches during practices and tournaments. Our floating coaches are experienced, qualified current or former players and coaches who have the skills and desire to teach the game, mentor players, progress the sport and our club, but due to family or professional obligations cannot commit to a head coaching position.

Top Caliber Volleyball requires all coaches to be IMPACT certified and actively promote coaching education through USAV resources as well as tactics learned from the Gold Medal Squared organization, which is the basis of our teachings. All Top Caliber Volleyball coaches and adult members associated with TCVC are required to submit and pass a background screening process prior to the start of each season.

Coaches

- Coaches will be responsible for informing ALL players of practice times, practice lengths, tournament times, arrival times, tournament duties and match specific issues.
- Coaches will maintain a level of communication between themselves, the players and their parents relevant to the aforementioned items.
- Coaches will provide parents with information directly related to player development and/or player expectations on an as needed, one-on-one basis.
- Coaches will not discuss any player issues with any parent other than the player's own.
- The club will be using GROUPME as a form of communication between players, parents and coaches.

Gold Medal Squared

TCVC will be utilizing the knowledge learned from Gold Medal Squared philosophy. This philosophy is a science-driven approach where the most important skills and data are studied in order to set the foundation for the evolving game of volleyball. Some of our coaches are already GMS certified, and additionally, TCVC will be hosting a clinic for all of our staff in the Fall of 2023 so that ALL of our staff is GMS qualified. It is our intent to have all of our coaches trained in this method by September 2023. We believe in this system.

Our coaches will be using the same techniques to teach skills such as passing, setting, hitting and serving so that as they advance in age groups, the technique stays the same.

Lessons

Coaches can give lessons at their availability. The sign ups will be done through the club website.

Tryout Process

Tryouts

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ocXpG2DbpizwmHEPAjKbWjjACPR9Tw_2eCH1gk7IhrM/edit?usp=sharing

Open Tryouts

All tryouts and practices are open to parents. However, we cannot allow any parent or person who is not a member of Top Caliber Volleyball Club to actively help in practices or the tryout process. This is due to insurance through USAV. That policy requires that the only adults on the court or sidelines be USAV members who are vetted and cleared as junior-team coaches or team chaperones.

Moving up of Age Groups/Moving Up

Playing up is defined as an athlete whose age qualifies her for a younger age group than the team she actually plays for. It is the philosophy of the club that it is rarely beneficial for an athlete to play up. A strong player who plays in her appropriate age group excels in leadership capabilities and confidence. Playing up can be intimidating and cause the player to be timid and inhibit skill development. However, There are circumstances where playing up will be permitted.

When is playing up permitted?

- The player is physically and mentally as mature as the rest of the players in older age group, and the player is also in the same school grade as the older age group.
- The player is physically and mentally as mature as the rest of the players in older age group, and the player will take on a dominate role in the higher age group team. (Players who play up, cannot be primarily bench players.)
- The player has significant talents that qualify her for a higher level team, but that team is coached by a coach that the individual is ineligible to play for because of in-district guidelines
- The player has a parent coaching the team in a the same age group and the agreement is made before hiring the coach.
- For other rare circumstances, the parent and player must appeal to the Club Admin prior to tryouts.
- Player playing with their grade level even though their age would qualify them for a younger team.
- Every decision on playing up will be at the discretion of the Club Admin.

Missing Tryouts

Although TCVC strongly encourages players to attend tryouts/makeup tryouts, if a returning TCVC player has an approved reason for missing tryouts, AND informs TCVC 5-7 days before tryouts of her excused reason for missing tryouts, she may still be placed on any team for the season. If a player would be a new player to the club, a member of the coaching staff or leadership team may attend a school match/practice to evaluate the player. Excused absences include (school events, immediate family weddings). Exceptions may be made for injuries, family emergencies or extenuating circumstances. If a player misses tryouts and positions are still available on a team, we may invite the interested player to tryout at a team's practice following the start of the season.

Team Selections

Team Selections

Teams will consist of a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 11 athletes. We will have multiple coaches evaluating players during our tryouts. Each year during tryouts we consider every athlete as a prospective player of Top Caliber Volleyball Club. All players must tryout every season, and no player is guaranteed a spot on a team because she played last season. We will evaluate as best as we can during the duration of the tryout. Selection will be based upon the following criteria:

- A player's performance during the tryout - skill level, effort, competitiveness and interaction with other athletes.
- Our perception of that player's athletic potential – what she may be able to do over the course of the season.
- Our perception of the “coach-ability” of the player. Evaluations of players during the past club season, camps or the current high school season.
- Being in good standing with the Top Caliber Volleyball Club and USA Volleyball.
- Past history of parental involvement or behavior. (negative or positive)

Team Selection Continued

Each team is based upon 9-11 players give or take. With this being said, the positions will be spread out as needed. What this means is for example if we have 4 setters come out for a 14U team, we will spread them out according to skill, attitude, etc between the teams at our discretion. We will also be selecting teams NOT based on friendships or because an athlete "lives near another athlete." One good thing about club volleyball is branching out and getting to know others. We will choose teams based on the mix we see best. Position played at club ball may differ from position played at school. This will be in the best interest of the team.

Please Note, if it is in agreement with coaches and admin, a team may have 9 players for the season. If this occurs, a higher fee for the season will have to be factored in to offset cost of the 10th player.

Notification of Team Selection

Depending on the number of players who try out for Top Caliber Volleyball each season, the player notification process may vary. It may be a phone call/email at the end of the first day of tryouts, the second day of tryouts or a combination of the two. This means that some athletes may receive immediate offers for a certain position/team level. Commitment rules change frequently in the region, and this may drive the team selection process. Top Caliber Volleyball Club will offer all of its positions by the evening of the last day of makeup tryouts. Most will happen before then. This offer will come by phone call as well as email. We ask that the athletes inform us of their acceptance within 48 hours of the offer so that we can move on if needed. On occasion, an additional tryout may be necessary to finalize teams. Alternates may be notified early to let them know that they are an alternate for a team, however, athletes may not receive an offer for up to 5 days after tryouts. All in all, within 5 days of the last tryout, an athlete will know if they have received an offer or not.

Signing Night for High School

-Sunday, Aug 14th @ Ayden Grifton High School @ 3pm

-Uniform Try ons and choosing of uniform numbers will occur in October

-Sponsorship Forms passed out

-Uniform Order begins

October 10th for 15s-18s and November 1st for 11-14s

Outside Conflicts

Outside Conflicts and Multisport Athletes

We expect Top Caliber Volleyball practices and tournaments to GENERALLY take priority over all other outside activities including other travel and school sports, dance ,band, drama, school trips, vacations, etc., moreso at the National/Diamond level.

Top Caliber Volleyball is supportive of players who participate in other sports (high school or otherwise). Players are requested to communicate with coaches prior to team selection regarding other sports and other activities that may cause potential conflicts. It will be at the coach's discretion to consider such conflicts and the potential effect on the team at the time team selections are made.

Outside Conflicts Continued

Once teams are selected, pressure from coaches for athletes to quit other activities will not be tolerated. For a club to field successful, competitive teams, that team demands a 100% commitment to attending ALL practices and tournaments. It is assumed that your daughter's second sport coach will also demand 100% commitment to attending ALL practices and or games. Please take that into consideration when accepting a position on your team and try to work out conflicts ahead of time.

We will attempt to be as flexible as possible provided the appropriate notice is given. We will accommodate scheduling as much as we can but it is not guaranteed. **Good communication between coaches and players or parents is vital. If you cannot attend a practice or tournament, notify your coach as early as possible.**

Officiating

USAV Membership/Ref and Scorers Clinic

All members of Top Caliber Volleyball teams are required to have a current membership to USAV. See <http://www.carolinaregionvb.org/juniors/> for more information.

Players must attend the mandatory Referee and Scorers Clinic. All 15-18U players will be required to have this finished by August 16th. This will allow us to go ahead and sign up for tournaments early and this information is needed to finalize the roster. This is \$35, paid online at the website upon completion.

Team Practices

Team Practices

Practice Schedule

A practice schedule will be released as soon as teams are finalized. Practices will be held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights, as well as Sunday afternoons. Practices are typically 2 -2.5hours. 12s and under will practice 1.5 hours and some of our regional teams will also practice 1.5 hours. There will be bi-weekly optional skill sessions on Mondays for 15-18U at Ayden Grifton High School. Weeknight practice times range anywhere from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Sunday practices may begin as early as 2:00pm and finish as late as 7:00pm. Practices will be held at the following locations:

- Ayden Grifton High School
- Kinston Community Center
- Contentnea School (old facility)
- West Craven High School
- Grifton Middle School

We will add locations as we are able and see fit for the program! Once again, the practice schedule will be at the discretion of the club admin. We cannot accommodate everyone's outside activities such as dance, etc.

Practice Schedules

We will try to keep these as consistent as possible. If any changes occur with scheduling, we will let you know as soon as we know.

Open Gyms will start in September on Sundays. Skills trainings will start in October.

We will start a carpool form for those athletes who want to save gas by riding to practices together. This worked out perfectly during our AAU season.

On Sundays, this will be considered our “game play day.’ You will see a lot of on court game play between squads during this day. We have arranged our practice schedule accordingly.

PRACTICE SCHEDULE- Please refer to this schedule accordingly. Times are tentative until teams are set.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SWyb3eVWXfJD_okWGHfaKM-bXc44eSdJxaiubUq8aFU/edit?usp=sharing

Scheduling Changes

Should a coach be unable to attend a scheduled practice, the coach will not cancel practice without permission from the club's administration. Every attempt will be made to locate a substitute coach so as not to disrupt the regular training schedule of the team.

In the event of bad weather, a decision whether to cancel a practice will be made by Top Caliber Volleyball administration. If roads are hazardous in your area, please carefully consider whether to attend practice, and notify your coach accordingly.

Tournament cancellations or postponements will come directly from CRVB via posting on their website and will be conveyed to the coaches and the team as early as possible. Call your coach if you are uncertain. There will be **no dues refunded due to tournament cancellation from the Region**, but we will try our best to find an alternate tournament.

Scheduling Changes Continued

Excused absences will be defined as, but not limited to, illnesses (Covid/Flu is at least a 5 day quarantine.), injuries, required attendance to official school events and certain family commitments.

Unexcused absences will include, but not be limited to, forgetting about a scheduled practice, jobs, homework or school projects, test preparation and or conflicts with a second sport (unless approved by your coach). Top Caliber Volleyball completely understands the importance of academics. However, the player must also manage her time appropriately to meet her academic requirements AND honor her commitment to her team.

If a player will be absent from a scheduled practice, she must phone or email her coach 24 hours prior to the event. If there is a possible conflict with a scheduled tournament, the player must notify her coach at least 30 days in advance.

Practice Participation

It is critical that players and their parents understand that volleyball is a team sport where the dynamics of the team are extremely important. Volleyball requires an established rotation of position players, each providing an element to the team's design. If a player is absent from practices and tournaments, then it upsets the rotation and team dynamics, and leaves the coach and remaining players trying to design a new rotation during the most crucial time of the season. Therefore, absences from practice must be approved by your coach to be considered excused. Also, please make sure that players are at practice on time!

Player Expectations and Playing Time

Player Expectations

TCVC players should be committed to attending regular practices and all tournaments. Every player is expected to adhere to the USA Volleyball Participant Code of Conduct, always exhibiting good sportsmanship and supporting their teammates. Parents are expected to ensure their children arrive at their scheduled practice or tournament at or before the time specified by their coach.

Club volleyball is a long, but rewarding season. Please make sure that you are invested in wanting to learn and grow. We also know that attitudes can make or break a team. This will be one of the most important qualities we focus on at tryouts.

Team Movement

Occasionally we will move an athlete from one team to another as needed to complete a roster. We will not move an athlete to another team until we have discussed the move with the athlete, the parents and both coaches. If the player is moving down a skill level to a new team, then the player can refuse, and choose to receive a pro-rated refund for the season. If a player is moving up, she has the right to decline the offer and stay with her current team.

Guest Players

Occasionally we may have to fill in a team roster for a tournament by asking players from another team to fill in due to absences. We will only ask players to fill in:

- If the player filling in plays the same position as the missing player.
- If there is no one else on the team who can fulfill this position. (i.e. setter)
- If it is approved by the club admin.
- A player can only do this TWICE during a season.

Playing Time Philosophy

TCVC believes that PLAYING TIME for all athletes is determined by the playing ability of the athlete and IS LEFT TO THE **DISCRETION OF HER COACH.**

WE DO NOT GUARANTEE EQUAL PLAYING TIME ON ANY TEAM OR AT ANY EVENT.

TOP CALIBER VOLLEYBALL WILL GUARANTEE THAT EVERY PLAYER WILL RECEIVE AN **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO EARN PLAYING TIME.**

Playing Time Continued

During the season, if you are concerned with playing time, the ATHLETE should first talk with the coach at a scheduled time at least **24 hours after** a match. The goal is to have a logical, respectful discussion, which is best achieved after some time away from the emotions of the moment. The most appropriate approach is for the **athlete to ask the coach** what she needs to do to get more opportunities to play in matches. Parents can help their athlete to set goals to achieve more opportunities to play.

Playing Time Continued

The amount of time any given athlete is on the court is the result of a complex determination of the athlete's ability and potential, the team's needs at that moment, and the team's needs in the future. If an athlete does not feel comfortable speaking with the coach herself, her parents may be present. However, a coach will never speak to a parent regarding this issue without the athlete being present, and we prefer that all discussions take place in person rather than through electronic means where many times tone and feelings cannot be properly conveyed. All playing time decisions are made by the HEAD coach. **Under no circumstances** should a parent approach an **assistant head coach** about playing time concerns without the presence of the head coach.

Playing Time Continued

The goal of participating in USA Junior Volleyball is to train and improve the skills needed to compete at a higher level, whether it is at a middle or high school level, to seek a position on a more competitive club team, or even prepare for a college team. No one should consider club dues as monies paid to purchase playing time for your athlete. **The paying of club dues is to provide your daughter with the opportunities to train and reach the above-mentioned opportunities.** No one is paying for playing time, and Top Caliber Volleyball does not sell promises of playing time.

Quitting a Team

Players quitting their team during the season are still expected to pay a prorated percentage of club dues according to the following schedule: **January 1 – 50%; February 1 – 75%; March 1, 100%**. A **15% termination fee** (of entire amount) will also be charged in addition to the prorated amount. After a commitment letter has been signed by a player, Top Caliber Volleyball will not release a player to play with another club.

If a player quits and does not pay their dues, they will be unable to participate in any future Top Caliber Events until their debt is paid in full.

Tournaments

Tentative Tournaments

Here is a list of our tentative tournament dates for each level of play, as well as the cost per level. Remember, we will not know the locations of regional tournaments, only the dates, until closer to the tournament time.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GOwaKrVwDqNr0vBFrUbEfydeXvK88FI8LEuWduBFzls/edit?usp=sharing>

Regional Tournament Procedures

Carolina Region Junior Volleyball Tournaments are held on weekends from January to April and are played using a round-robin pool play format. Each team will play at least three matches, and possibly more depending on the tournament. Most, but not all tournaments use the pool play matches to determine seeding for elimination play, but the exact format varies both by tournament and age group. Events usually begin at 9 A.M. and may finish as late as 9 P.M. Tournament pools and schedules are generally posted on the Carolina Region website, www.CarolinaRegionvb.org generally a week to two weeks before hand. Your coaches will communicate the schedules with you as soon as they are posted.

Tournament Procedures Continued

On tournament days, players should **arrive 1 hour before the first match** and should be dressed for warm-ups at the court at least 45 minutes prior to a match. About 30 minutes before game time, the team should be warming up indoors wherever possible, and with a volleyball, if space and tournament rules permit. During the day, each team should stay together and must inform their coach if needing to leave the site to obtain food. Be aware of the match schedules and when your team plays, referees, or rests. The schedule is available at the tournament site.

Pool Play

Teams are typically grouped into pools of four or five teams. Each pool will play the teams within their pool, and normally on the same court throughout pool play. Teams not scheduled to play are required to supply officials (two referees, three scorers, and two line judges) or will enjoy a rest period. The rest periods should be used for meals and relaxation.

In most tournaments, the top two teams in each pool will advance to the elimination round, or playoffs. In the case of any ties, teams may be required to play a tiebreak, to determine which team advances to the next round. Teams that do not advance to the elimination rounds may still be required to provide officials. Semifinals and finals are usually officiated by adult USA Volleyball Referees, one of which will be present throughout a tournament in order to supervise youth officials during pool play.

All athletes will need to purchase a whistle to keep on hand!

Officiating at Tournaments

All USAV tournaments are at least partially self-officiated. Officiating at tournaments is the shared responsibility of the entire team, including coaches. All players are required to help with the line judging, scorekeeping, score flipping, and down officiating. The coach may rotate officiating responsibilities but will often only use the most experienced scorekeepers. No headsets or cell phones are to be used during officiating assignments. This also includes cell phones at the scorekeepers table. Coaches will keep a running document of duties.

Officiating the Last Match

Teams finishing last in their pool are required to officiate the 1st match of the playoffs. **Please do not leave any tournament until your coach has checked in with the tournament director and received permission to leave.** Teams leaving without fulfilling their duties will be reported to the Region and a fine may be imposed on the club that will be passed along to the team. **All team members are expected to stay until all tournament responsibilities are completed!**

Team Area and Food Table

Upon arrival, the team will identify a team area where the girls can leave their bags and hang out between playing and officiating. The area may be a room, table or simply a spot in a hallway or even outside. Either way, the team area represents our club and should be kept neat and organized at all times. Most girls will bring some type of blanket and/or pillow, homework, a book, headphones or other items to help pass the time between matches. Remember, the team area is not secure and valuables should be left at your own risk. Also, be sure to properly dispose of any trash and leave the area as we found it when the tournament is over. Most tournaments do not offer healthy concessions. Top Caliber Volleyball Club teams, with the help of each Team Parent, will organize a team table with items assigned for each player to bring to that tournament. The food will be kept in our team area and everyone associated with our team will be welcome to use the team cooler. We do ask that the players have first access to the items since they must coordinate meals and snacks with their playing and officiating schedule. This is mostly for Regional Tournaments! If you are interested in serving as team mom, please contact your coach, but also know that the coach have the overall call to appoint the team mom.

Travel to Tournaments

Travel to tournaments will be the responsibility of each parent/family. TCVC Volleyball does not require players to carpool or to leave from an assigned location when traveling to tournaments. When carpooling, each player should leave and return in the same vehicle as to avoid any situations with players being left behind. If a player's parents are not in attendance, TCVC Volleyball Club does advise players to notify their parents if any changes are being made in their travel arrangements.

It is critical for players to remember uniforms, team t-shirts, knee pads, court shoes, and lunch/snacks when preparing for a tournament. Many sites sell food, but most often it is not nutritional, and occasionally no food is available. Past seasons have seen much success with a parent organized plan to bring food items such as sandwiches, bagels, fruits, chips, energy bars, sports drinks and plenty of water. Players should always bring a water bottle for use during matches, and labeled with a name or some other identifying mark. Snack bags organized by parents are an awesome idea!

Travel to Tournaments Continued

WE TRAVEL TO TOURNAMENTS TO COMPETE; everything else is secondary.

Athletes may not leave the tournament area at any time without permission from their Coach or a team chaperone. Athletes must report any illness or injury to the coach and chaperone immediately. NO cell phones, iPads or other entertainment devices will be allowed on the bench, at the scorer's table or while calling lines during a match. Per the coach's discretion, cell phones may only be used for communicating with parents. All players MUST stay to officiate even if there is no assigned job. As a club, we would like all players to stay together during this time, not sitting with their parents.

Out of State/National Tournaments

For the 2022-2023 season, TCVC Volleyball will only handle *Regional* hotel arrangements for team coaches as needed. All accommodations for regional players and parents will be the responsibility of those individuals. We will handle all out of region tournament hotel blocks and make these as financially fit as possible so that our teams can stay together as much as possible.

Many tournaments now have a STAY and PLAY policy in place. This means in order to participate in those national events, every team MUST book rooms in designated hotels. Once a team's attendance is confirmed for a multi-day tournament, information regarding team specific hotels will be made available along with specific instructions for booking. Each parent will be responsible for securing their own player/family reservations. We WILL require that our teams going to Stay to Play Tournaments book at the same hotel in order to be fair to all families. If you have circumstances that prevent this such as a large family or have family living nearby, there may be exceptions for this.

Out of Town/Out of State Tournaments

When a team is traveling to a regional tournament that requires an overnight stay, or when traveling to Out-of-State tournaments, the following policies will be in effect:

- Absolutely NO member of the opposite sex is permitted in the player's rooms
- Players will act respectful whenever in the hotel lobby, dining area and hallways
- Players will not disturb other hotel guests with loud or obnoxious behavior
- After arriving at the hotel, players should not be out of their rooms after 10:00p.m.
- Lights-out should be no later than 11:00pm or time designated by your coach. This includes the television, computers or any other device that might keep you or your roommates awake.
- When attending any club-related event, you are representing TCVC Volleyball and we expect you to act accordingly and show respect for your club, your teammates, your coach, your parents and everyone that made it possible for you to be competing today and participating in something you enjoy.

Any player(s) who fails to comply with the above stated travel policies may incur an immediate suspension of play, or be deemed ineligible for a future tournament requiring an overnight stay.

Driving Policy

As a general rule, players who are 17 years or older may drive to tournaments within 2 hours. Outside of this area, players are required to be driven by a parent or guardian. We do realize that this is not always possible and communication with the head coach is required for exceptions to this rule. At no time may a player ride with a coach unless traveling with the team or a portion of the team and another adult or approved by Club Admin. This is for insurance purposes!

Club Dues

Club Dues

TCVC Volleyball dues for the 2023 season vary with player age and level of competition. TCVC dues include training, facility rental fees, equipment use, equipment upgrades, tournament registrations, insurance, coaching salaries, coach's CRVB registrations, HUDL (when applicable), coach's travel costs and administrative costs.

Other expenses such as personal travel expenses and food are the responsibility of each individual player.

Once a player has accepted an offered position, that acceptance will be determined a binding contract with TCVC Volleyball, and a deposit will be due on a pre scheduled date for ALL team members.

Remaining balances will be divided into 4-7 equal payments and will be due on the 1st of each month.

Payments for club dues must be made via the website unless paying in full on signing night. We will have a tutorial on signing night about how to make payments via the website. **At no time will coaches accept club fee payments.**

2022-2023 Season Dues

[2022-2023 Tournament Schedule](#)

This year, we have taken into consideration multiple factors when assessing our club dues. We are very competitive and affordable according to local and statewide programs in terms of club dues.

Considerations

When choosing your daughter's club volleyball team, make sure to take some things into consideration:

- Time/Commitment

- Cost: Things to consider include hotels, gas, food, entry fees, and parking

- Best atmosphere and fit for your girl

Financial Standings

IMPORTANT: Any player not in good financial standing may not be allowed to participate in practices or tournaments until the issue is rectified. This applies to any accounts **over 15 days late**. After 7 days a late fee of 5 percent will be charged. However, we are happy to discuss alternative payment arrangements if needed per the club director, if necessary. Any returning player not in good financial standing with the club will not be allowed to participate unless previous financial obligations are corrected.

In the event of a season cancellation (i.e. national pandemic), TCVC Volleyball will return a prorated amount of paid dues as they correspond to the date of cancellation. All fees including administrative and equip/gym rental are divided over the entire season, therefore cannot be refunded in full. Scholarships will NOT be refunded. Our goal is to be as fair as possible in situations such as these.

Uniforms

All TCVC Volleyball Club players are required to purchase a complete uniform package for the 2023 season. Depending on your team, selection packages may vary. Packages will include 1-3 jerseys, (1) warm-up top and (1) backpack (diamond/sapphire) , 1-2 practice tees. Black Spandex will be available as an optional item. Uniform sizing will be done at initial individual practices.

Please note that Uniform costs are not included in club dues; they are in addition. We will be working with a local vendor this year to bring you the best prices that we can.

Spirit Store

As mentioned in the prior slide, we will be using a local vendor this year to provide our club store. This will be optional (minus the required items) and include shirts, hoodies, water bottles, etc. This store will stay open season long for you to purchase items. We will post the website link once it becomes available.

****Please do not use outside sources to create items with our logo. Our logo is trademarked. This includes t shirts, stickers, etc.**

Uniforms Continued

Payment for the primary Uniform Package will be handled directly with the vendor online. All short sleeved jerseys, extra spandex, and backpack orders will made/paid via the online system. All players are required to have uniforms in hand before the first tournament.

It will be the responsibility of each player to care for her uniforms and equipment. Any items required for competition that are lost or damaged will be replaced at the player's expense.

Payment Dates

Upon accepting an offer, the player has until August 12th to make the initial payment as outlined here.

The payment schedule will be as follows:

1. Initial payment
2. December-April (5 equal payments)
3. Regional teams will go December to March (4 equal payments)
4. Dues are due the 1st of each month online through our website, Oasys Sports. You will have to create an account to do this and we send out a form with directions once your daughter has accepted a spot in our club.

Financial Commitment and Injuries

For obvious reasons a player can be excused from TCVC Volleyball and the remainder of their obligation if the participant becomes disabled or so severely injured while playing or practicing with the Club that she cannot practice or compete for more than three (3) months (Disability). Upon notice of such cancellation, the Club may retain that portion of the fees or collect that portion of the indebtedness incurred by the Participant that is equal to the proportionate value of the services, use of facilities, equipment, registration, and travel fees the Participant has already received from the Club. Any player receiving uniform or equipment items prior to an injury withdrawal will be expected to remit those fees as well.

The Participant must provide proof of a Disability by furnishing the Club with a written statement from a medical doctor certifying the Disability. The Participant will be readmitted to participation in the Club only with a written release from a medical doctor certifying her fitness to participate in Club activities.

Once a player becomes a member of TCVC Volleyball, their financial commitment is expected even in the case that the player decides to leave the club for any reason other than an injury as previously stated.

What are some ways to offset the cost of the season?

- Fundraising

- Online Team Program Guide. This will begin September 1st for 15-18U. You can find more information here. Girls make 70 percent of sales.
 - [Top Caliber Media Guide](#)
 - [Top Caliber Media Guide Instructions](#)
 - [Top Caliber Media Guide Ad Form](#)
- 50/50 Raffle Tickets- This will begin November 1st. Girls make 50 percent of sales. Find more information here. (Check back for Updates!)
- February- Stamp Card fundraiser. Girls will keep 100 percent of this to put toward travel/hotels as needed. (Check back for Updates!)

Other Fundraisers

TCVC will allow individual teams to fundraise as they see fit (chicken plates, Krispy Kreme, etc.) This is a great way to team bond as well. This money raised as a team needs to be split with the team members who participate.

Any outside club fundraising needs to be approved by TCVC admin using this form. Please submit 20 days prior to event.

Top Caliber admin will have no dealings with any money made from these fundraisers.

If you would like to be a part of the fundraising committee please contact Janet Brooks @ janetbbrooks@gmail.com.

Club Fundraisers

In order for our club to look forward to the future and its growth, we will have multiple club fundraisers throughout the year. Money raised will go toward:

- Scholarship opportunities for player dues
- College camps
- Building Fund
- Coaching resources and development opportunities

Scholarship Information/Financial Assistance

We as a club, understand the cost of club volleyball can become expensive. We have a number of scholarships available to help offset the costs. The maximum award is dependent on individual need and funds available. Scholarships will be dispersed on a first come first serve basis. Deadline to apply is August 31st for high school age, October 31st for middle school age. Please fill the application out in its entirety by making a copy of this form (file, make a copy), filling it out, and emailing it to us at topcalibervolleyball@gmail.com.

[Scholarship Application](#)

Additional Family Members

We understand that having more than one member of your immediate family involved in club volleyball can be expensive. We offer a 10 percent discount off of the total for more than one player.

Example: 3 players total is 3000, we offer a 300 discount, so the new total will be 2700. This is for immediate family members in your household only.

Donations

TCVC Volleyball is recognized as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the State of North Carolina and by the IRS. Any donations made to TCVC Volleyball are tax deductible and much appreciated. Scholarships may be awarded in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina. Scholarships will be awarded as the club has the financial means to do so. This is done through sponsorships as well as donations made to the club.

How do we give back?

- Free sessions throughout the year
- Putting on camps and clinics for Kinston Community Center
- Toys for Harrison (Christmas toy drive)
- Help with paying for college camps for our athletes

Hudl

This season the club will be purchasing hudl for all of our Diamond Level Teams. Hudl is used to video and stat games as well as provide a recruiting profile for players and their families.

Recruiting

Our program/Nicole Waters will be working closely with local colleges and universities in getting your daughter the best future possible if they are wanting to play at the next level. During the months of September and October, we will be working with players and athletes in setting up their recruiting platform online.

Club Behavioral Standards

Player/Parent Behavioral Standards

TCVC Volleyball will not tolerate hostile or aggressive confrontations between a parent and an official, a parent and any coach, a parent and any athlete, or a parent and any other parent, regardless of whether the coach, athlete or other parent is a member of TCVC Volleyball or not. Violation of this policy may result in the athlete being dismissed from TCVC Volleyball.

It is **not** appropriate for an athlete or a parent to complain to other TCVC Volleyball players or parents about a problem the athlete or parent is having with TCVC Volleyball, a coach, a teammate, or about a disagreement with an administrative decision. The players will be the ones to suffer the consequences if there is any inappropriate behavior, whether it is the behavior of the player or the behavior of their parents.

Player Punishment/Restrictions

TCVC Volleyball does not condone or promote any type or form of punishment levied towards any player for issues concerning missed practice time, absence from tournaments, etc. However, there is a direct impact on a team's chemistry and success when players are chronically absent from scheduled workouts and competitions. **Therefore, a player missing multiple scheduled practice sessions may be subject to a reduced amount of playing time at an upcoming tournament. This will be at the coaches discretion.**

Inappropriate Behavior

If you, as a parent, see any member of the TCVC Volleyball staff behave in a way you believe appears to be inappropriate, or if you experience behavior from a coach or administrator that you believe is inappropriate, report it immediately to the club admin. All complaints will be investigated. Any staff member found to be in violation will be subject to discipline, which may include dismissal. There will NEVER be any retaliation against any complainants or any witnesses who participate in an investigation of said inappropriate behavior. As the administrators of TCVC Volleyball cannot physically attend every team's practice or tournament, it is the responsibility of you as a parent to inform the administration of any concerns that relate to your daughter.

Player Dismissal

Any athlete found in possession of alcohol, tobacco, including vapes, illegal drugs or engaged in inappropriate or unlawful behavior AT ANY POINT in time during the TCVC Volleyball season will be immediately suspended/removed from the program. Should an incident occur when a team is traveling, the athlete will be released to the custody of their parent(s) and, in the event the athlete is not accompanied by their parent(s) or legal guardian, they will be sent home at the expense of the parent(s) or guardian. This policy also includes any proof of inappropriate behavior that occurs at any point during the TCVC Volleyball Club season.

Social Media

As the popularity of social media has become more advanced and utilized by more people at younger ages, it has become a source of concern for the club and its attempt to ensure a positive experience throughout the season. As a result of the well-known and widespread use of sending or **posting negative or derogatory Text Messages, Tweets, Facebook posts, Instagram posts or through any other social media source available**, TCVC Volleyball Club will institute a **NO TOLERANCE policy** towards this issue. Any player or parent found to have sent or posted any comments, statements or opinions that are deemed to be inappropriate or negative in nature towards the club or any of its members or staff, will be subject to disciplinary action. As monitoring of this problem cannot be placed solely upon the club, it will be the responsibility of the parent(s) to police their daughter's actions and use of these message delivery systems. This will also include any siblings, family members and friends etc., who choose to violate this policy on behalf of a current member of TCVC Volleyball Club.

Role of the Parent

TCVC offers options for parents who would like to be heavily involved in their player's team.

Chaperone- Each National Level team is required to have at least one registered adult who is background checked as the designated Chaperone. The chaperone must be in attendance at every tournament and may not leave the tournament facility unless the team has completed play for the day, and has left the venue. This is considered the coach/coaches.

Team Parent-Each team has at least one adult. This parent is responsible for leading team communication, tournament food table, and other "spirit" type events. A team may have multiple parents in this role, as long as parents have a specific role, such as the parent responsible for communication, the parent responsible for food, or the parent responsible for travel arrangements. The role of each of these parents must be clearly communicated to all team members and their parents. Again, coaches have the final say of who the team parent will be.

On the Court

Under no circumstance may a parent who is not a coach participate on the court in warm-ups, practices or matches unless approved by the Club Director & Coach. This parent must be an adult USAV member, background checked, and have passed both the Impact & SafeSport training programs.

Parental Conduct

All parents are required to sign and turn in the parental code of conduct to their player's coach. Any violation of the code of conduct may result in the ban of the parent to attend practices or tournaments, or the removal of the player from the team. Parents will also be held responsible for any of their relatives or guests.

BYOP 101

All parents of Top Caliber Athletes will be required to attend a Bring Your Own Parent Session. Here is where the following topics will be discussed:

- Rotations
- How to be a part of our culture
- Referee Signals
- Faults
- Basic Volleyball Vocabulary
- Positions on the court

The sessions offered will be throughout November.

Coach/Player/Parent Concerns

Competitive team athletics, by its very nature, creates situations where everyone may not be happy all the time. For the psychological health of the athletes and the Club as a whole, if you have a valid concern that is unrelated to playing time, you should talk to your **head coach(s)**. If you feel you cannot approach them with the matter, please feel free to speak to any member of the Parent Board. Please be proactive in addressing the situation because any comments that undermine the staff, other players on a team, or the TCVC Volleyball Club program may result in the dismissal of your daughter from the program.

Coach/Player/Parent Concerns Continued

If you as a parent have legitimate concerns about a coach, you need to speak with the club director. We will not discuss any issue involving a player with anyone OTHER than the player, her parents or her coach. Please note again that "coaching decisions" are not, in TCVC Volleyball's opinion, subject to discussion. The practice of a parent talking about any player; other than their own, is highly frowned upon and will be considered detrimental to the team and the club.

TCVC Volleyball has adopted the USAV SafeSport Policies as the safety of our participants is of paramount importance. "USA Volleyball has ZERO TOLERANCE for abuse and misconduct. This includes not only on-court safety, but also off-court safety in any part of USA Volleyball'S programs."

Parent/Player/Coach Protocol

In adherence to the philosophy of the TCVC Volleyball Club, we have outlined a schedule of protocol for the communication relationship between players, coaches and parents.

ANY MEETING BETWEEN A COACH-PLAYER-PARENT WILL NEED TO BE CONDUCTED IN THE PRESENCE OF TCVC VOLLEYBALL ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL, UNLESS PERMISSION TO EXCLUDE TCVC VOLLEYBALL ADMIN HAS BEEN OBTAINED PRIOR TO THE MEETING. THIS IS TO ENSURE DISCLOSURE AND PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED, THUS PREVENTING A HE-SAID/SHE-SAID SITUATION.

Sexual/Physical/Emotional Abuse

We monitor activities and interactions to try to prevent miscommunications that cause discomfort to any of our athletes or parents. When not documented in our handbook, TCVC follows the guidelines of SafeSport. SafeSport is a training program that believes that, “Athletes will perform better, soar higher, and get more from sport if they feel safe. SafeSport seeks to create a healthy, supportive environment for all participants. Through education, resources, and training, we help members of the sport community recognize, reduce, and respond to misconduct in sport.” All TCVC coaches and directors have taken this training, and we encourage all parents to do the same. You can find the program at www.safesport.org.

Office Hours

Our club contact information is as follows:

topcalibervolleyball@gmail.com- EMAIL

(252) 933-8788- PHONE via call/text

Please allow 24-48 hours for responses through email or phone.

Final Words

We want to thank you for being a part of Top Caliber Volleyball. Without the athletes, parents, coaches and staff we could not do what we do!!!!