



Alberta Schools' Athletic Association
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Memo

To: ASAA Member Schools
Date: June 27, 2024
From: John Paton, ASAA Executive Director and
Diane Clarke, Volleyball Alberta Executive Director
cc: Executive Committee and Board of Governors
Re: Volleyball Alberta Tryouts

ASAA Member Schools and Zones,

This is a joint statement from the ASAA and Volleyball Alberta.

BACKGROUND

Club volleyball has faced incredible growth in the last two seasons – including a staggering 36% increase to the number of 16U to 18U teams over the past two seasons. In addition to this incredible growth, club administrators are handling higher requirements regarding governance processes to create safer spaces for athletes to learn and compete.

Combined, these factors have led to adaptations in processes to provide as many opportunities to athletes as possible. The 2024-2025 Signing and Tryout Process will officially occur during the high school season for the first time. It is expected that clubs will re-sign many of their athletes from the previous season prior to tryouts. With the first tryout of each age class occurring on a Sunday, it is also anticipated most offers will be made and accepted after the first session. This means that most club teams should have their rosters completed without conflicting with an ASAA practice or competition.

However, after the new process was shared, many school coaches expressed their concerns that there would be a larger impact to the high school season than what was intended. The ASAA Executive Committee and leaders from Volleyball Alberta (VA) have met twice since early June to collaborate on how to best serve high school athletes moving forward.

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VA has also made some concessions to their original plans ([see this document for more details](#)):

- 18U Tryouts will be held on Sunday, September 8 and end on September 15
- 17U Tryouts will be held on Sunday, September 15 and end on September 22
- 16U Tryouts will be held on Sunday, September 22 and end on September 29

STATEMENT

After collaboratively reviewing ASAA policies, the intentions of the changes VA is implementing, and with a long term view of working collaborative, the ASAA and VA communicate the following information:

1. For the 2024 season, ASAA student-athletes may participate in Volleyball Alberta 18U, 17U and 16U tryouts.
2. ASAA student-athletes who participate (including tryouts) with non-school teams outside of these tryouts will be declared ineligible for interschool competition.
3. The ASAA and VA will work collaboratively by making athlete-centered decisions. Our goal is to minimize athlete overload and create resources to educate athletes, coaches, and parents on yearly planning resources and long-term development principles.
4. The ASAA will work to clarify its policies around seasons of play and non-school team participation.
5. ASAA member schools are encouraged to share this information with their coaches and prospective volleyball players attending their school in 2024/25.
6. VA clubs are encouraged to share this information with their coaches and prospective volleyball players. Clubs will be asked, whenever possible, to offer tryouts on the Sundays and offer as few sessions as possible to complete their teams.
7. VA and ASAA will each connect with their respective groups at the end of their seasons to understand the impacts of the new VA signing policy.