

# Stratford Volleyball Club FAQ's



## STRATFORD VOLLEYBALL CLUB FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# SVC Frequently Asked Questions

[Table of Contents \(Click for the response\)](#)

### **Open Gyms**

What are open gyms?

### **Tryouts**

When are tryouts?

How do we sign up?

What age group should my child try out for in the 2025-2026 season?

What does my athlete need for tryouts?

My athlete can't attend one of the tryout dates, what should we do?

Can my child try out for multiple clubs?

Can my child try out for multiple teams within the same club?

What is the extended age class?

Are there any other exceptions?

My child received an offer, now what?

My child was released, now what?

### **Season structure/expectations**

How often are practices?

How often are games? Where are they?

What are the expectations for my child?

What parent involvement can I expect?

### **Costs**

How much will this cost?

Is financial assistance available?

What do the fees cover?

Are there any extra costs that aren't included?

### **SVC Merchandise**

Where can I buy SVC merchandise locally?



## STRATFORD VOLLEYBALL CLUB FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Who are we?

The Stratford Volleyball Club was founded in 1975 and offers recreational and competitive programming for youth ages 10-18. The girls teams are the Stratford Stingers and the boys teams are the Stratford Cobras.

### Open Gyms

What are open gyms?

Open gyms are club facilitated court times that are scheduled to allow athletes to get some touches on the ball leading into tryouts. It's a good way to get back into the gym, meet new potential teammates, meet potential coaches, maybe learn something new, have some fun and get a feel for the environment before tryouts. Typically held in August, these are optional gym times and will not be used as evaluation sessions.

### Tryouts

When are tryouts?

The Ontario Volleyball Association tryout window for the 2025-2026 season opens September 5, 2025. Times, dates and locations will depend on the age group. Anticipate 2-4 time slots between the 5th and 20th of September. Our youngest teams (6x6 and 4x4 will hold tryouts after TLS is completed (later in September). Coaches may begin releasing athletes after the 2nd tryout date. The OVA has a tryout policy which includes procedures for signing athletes. Check it out here: [OVA Club Tryouts](#)

How do we sign up?

Check the Stratford Volleyball Club website. This info is generally released early August. There will be dates, times and a form for registering. Also, every athlete MUST be



## STRATFORD VOLLEYBALL CLUB FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

registered through the OVA Member Registration System (MRS) before attending tryouts.

**MRS registration opens on September 1, 2025 and instructions can be found [here](#).**

What age group should my child try out for in the 2025-2026 season?

Division	Birth Year
4v4	2014, 2015, 2016
6v6	2012, 2013 (plus 2014 boys)
TLS	2012 and 2011 Sept 1-Dec 31
15U	2011 and 2010 Sept 1- Dec 31
16U	2010 and 2009 Sept 1- Dec 31
17U	2009 and 2008 Sept 1- Dec 31
18U	2007, 2008

Athletes are encouraged to try out in their own age group. Players can choose to also try out for the age group above theirs. For example; an athlete born in 2010 can choose to try out for the 16U and 17U teams. SVC has recently enacted a policy that an underage player must be chosen for the first team to remain in the older age group. Any underage players not chosen for the first team will return to tryout for their own age group.

What does my athlete need for tryouts?

Athletic attire, indoor shoes, a water bottle and a good attitude are musts. We would also recommend knee pads and court specific shoes.



## STRATFORD VOLLEYBALL CLUB FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

My athlete can't attend one of the tryout dates, what should we do?

Ideally we like to see athletes attend all dates, but we recognize that occasionally circumstances make it impossible to attend all tryouts. If that happens we would recommend reaching out to the head coach immediately. If you aren't sure who that is you can also email the club directly.

Can my child try out for multiple clubs?

Yes. There is no limit to how many clubs an athlete can try out for. That said, please make sure to let coaches know. If your athlete receives an offer from a club and they accept they cannot attend any further tryouts for other clubs.

Can my child try out for multiple teams within the same club?

Yes. Any time an athlete is registered for tryouts they are trying out for all teams in that age group. If there are 2 teams in the age category both head coaches will attend tryouts and assess athletes together and independently to determine the right fit for the athlete and the team. Athletes can also try out for the age group above theirs. For example an athlete born in 2010 can choose to tryout for the 16u and 17u teams. SVC has recently enacted a policy that an underage player must be chosen for the first team to remain in the older age group. Any underage players not chosen for the first team will return to tryout for their own age group.

What is the extended age class?

If an athlete is born between September 1-December 31 they can try out and play for the age group below them. For example; a girl born September 1, 2011 can try out for 15U and 14U. Athletes born before September 1 must try out for their age group. For example; a girl born August 31st must try out for the 15U program.

Are there any other exceptions?

Yes. Athletes who are born in 2012 should try out for 14U (also known as TLS) . If they are released from the 14U/TLS program they can try out and play in our 13U/6v6 program



## STRATFORD VOLLEYBALL CLUB FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

regardless of when in the year their birthday falls. The OVA recognizes that in the early stages of an athlete's volleyball journey children develop skill at different rates and enter the sport at a variety of ages. Early contact ages (14U/TLS and lower) have more flexible age ranges for this reason.

### My child received an offer, now what?

Congrats! Offers will state when you must respond by. Generally you will have a bit of time to make a decision. Take some time to consider if the program, schedule, coaching and club is the right fit for your family. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the coaching staff to discuss. That said once you have the answers you need, please let the club know ASAP by either accepting or declining the offer. If you are declining we ask that you reach out to the head coach or club and let them know why. It's important that programs understand the reason for that decision so they can consider changes for the future.

### My child was released, now what?

Being cut is never easy, but it doesn't need to be the end of your athlete's volleyball journey. Hopefully the coach has provided some insight as to why or what to work on for the future. As previously mentioned, if your child is born within the extended age class, or is trying out for 14u, there is an option to try out for the age group below. There are lots of programs in Stratford and the surrounding area that can help your child work on skills including our house league program that runs through the winter months, our beach volleyball program that runs through May and June, and a variety of coaches who do work one on one or in small groups. Also consider summer camps, such as Spikezone in Stratford. Most clubs and Colleges/Universities in the area also offer camp opportunities through the summer and at school breaks. Playing at school and even just in the backyard or the park are also a great way to get touches with the ball.



## STRATFORD VOLLEYBALL CLUB FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Season structure/expectations

How often are practices?

Our teams practice 2-3 times per week depending on the team. At least one of these practices will be at the Agriplex in Stratford with additional practices potentially using other facilities in the area.

How often are games? Where are they?

Volleyball is different from most other “rep” sports in that our rankings are determined solely by tournaments. Teams may arrange exhibition games against other local clubs in between tournaments but that is at the coach’s discretion. Teams will be registered for 4 OVA regular season tournaments as well as one 3-day provincial event (Ontario Championships) held in Toronto in April. Teams may choose to enroll in additional OVA and invitational tournaments at the coach’s discretion. Aside from provincials we do not know where the tournament will be held until roughly a month before the event. More information about tournament dates can be found here: [OVA 2025-2026 Calendar](#)

What are the expectations for my child?

As in any “rep” sport, the expectation is that the athletes attend practices and games on time, ready to put in full effort, with a positive attitude. Proper sleep, nutrition and training are important for your child’s health as well as their performance. Respect for teammates, coaches, officials and opponents as well as themselves is also mandatory.

What parent involvement can I expect?

Parents can expect more involvement at tournaments than most other sports. You will be expected to score keep, do lines (age dependent), or even toss the ball (6v6 and 4v4 only). If the team is hosting you will likely be asked to help in some capacity. Beyond helping out the team, your job as a parent is to encourage your child, cheer on the team, support the coaches and be respectful of officials, opposing teams and other parents. It’s important to recognize that your behaviour directly impacts your child’s enjoyment and experience. We



## STRATFORD VOLLEYBALL CLUB FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

welcome parents to observe practices and tournaments and encourage open dialogue with coaches. That said, we ask that parents observe a 24 hour “cooling off” period before approaching a coach with a concern or issue.

### **Financial Commitment**

How much will this cost?

We have always aimed to keep our fees as low as possible while still offering a premium club experience. Club fees for the 2025-2026 season will be \$960. See below for potential additional fees.

Is financial assistance available?

Our club seeks to ensure that finances are not a barrier for athletes to participate. Please reach out if this is applicable.

What do the fees cover?

Fees cover membership to the OVA, insurance, equipment, practice spaces, 4 OVA tournament fees and associated costs and entry fees for provincials as well as jerseys and practice shirts.

Are there any extra costs that aren't included?

That depends on the team. Extra costs may include additional tournaments, off court training and team activities. Meals and lodging for provincials will also be an additional expense. Many teams fundraise to help with these additional costs. Coaches will share anticipated seasons costs with families at the beginning of the season.





## STRATFORD VOLLEYBALL CLUB FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### SVC Merchandise

Where can I buy SVC merchandise locally?

You can find locally made SVC merch at Smash It Sports Canada located at 20 Monteith Ave in Stratford or online at [Smash It Sports Canada](#). We will have samples of merchandise and order forms available at our uniform sizing event in September.