

Conduct for Scouting & Recruiting – 2023/2024 Season

School Season

Volleyball Alberta strongly encourages the volleyball community to work cooperatively to ensure all volleyball participants have a positive experience by following these principles and rules.

1. Volleyball Alberta club or team representatives may not contact an athlete during school hours, practices, tournaments or league/exhibition games. They may do so after these activities but must have the permission of the athlete's school coach and/or parent(s) first before approaching the athlete.
2. Occasionally a player may initiate contact with a club coach. If this is done during school hours, practices, tournaments or league/exhibition games; then it is the club coach's responsibility to inform the athlete they can have a conversation after the activity and once they have received the school coach and/or parents' permission.
3. Active club recruiting begins in June as part of the [Early Signing/Tryout Period](#) for the 16U-18U age groups.:
 - No communication or recruiting of club athletes can occur within the current season, which ends May 31.
 - Athletes and families can communicate and seek information from clubs for the upcoming season starting in June.
 - Clubs are strongly encouraged NOT to facilitate any programs during the school season to prevent athlete burnout, overtraining, and/or overuse injuries. Clubs are encouraged to operate programs or house leagues for athletes not playing on school teams to fill any gaps.

Club Season

Volleyball Alberta strongly encourages the volleyball community to work cooperatively to ensure all volleyball participants have a positive experience by following these principles and rules.

1. Recruiters, coaches or scouting agency representatives are NOT allowed to contact an athlete while their team is still participating in a tournament.
2. Recruiters can speak with an athlete once their competition is over but must have consent from their coach and/or parent(s).
3. Recruiters must introduce themselves and the institution/organization they represent to tournament staff upon arrival; ideally recruiters will email Volleyball Alberta in advance with their information at info@volleyballalberta.ca.
4. Tournament staff has the right to ask a recruiter/coach to leave the gymnasium or venue if recruiting practices are not respected.

5. Occasionally a player may initiate contact with a recruiter/post-secondary coach. If this is done during school hours, practices, tournaments or league/exhibition games; then it is the recruiter's responsibility to inform the athlete they can have a conversation after the activity and once they have received the coach and/or parents' permission.
6. Volleyball Alberta is responsible for reporting all infractions to the appropriate association, athletic conference(s) and/or member institution. Violation of these rules, or the spirit of these rules, may result in sanctioning of a recruiter/coach.
7. All club coaches are obligated to report any recruiting practices they feel do not meet the above regulations. Club coaches should be aware that casual interaction between post-secondary coaches/recruiters and athletes during a tournament is acceptable, so long as conversations and contact do not involve recruitment.

Team Alberta

1. The Provincial Team Program will not be used as a vehicle for recruitment by clubs, colleges, universities and/or private agencies. Recruitment of any sort during Team Alberta training and competition periods by anybody, including the Provincial Team staff, will not be permitted and are grounds for dismissal.
2. Provincial team coaches will identify athletes at Volleyball Alberta events. Athletes will be notified after a tournament or near the end of the indoor season.
3. Provincial team coaches are not permitted to contact and recruit athletes during their participation in a competition.

Scouting & Recruiting Adherence

Volleyball Alberta reserves the right to investigate an infraction regardless of how VA learns about the incident. This is a self-policing policy, and all VA members are obligated to report any infractions and cooperate fully with the investigation. If Volleyball Alberta determines an infraction meets the threshold of non-compliance with conduct for scouting and recruiting, then it will be subject for review through the [Discipline and Complaints Policy](#).

When reporting a possible infraction please include the following information:

- Date of infraction.
- Offending club.
- Any type of non-subjective documentation that supports a violation to the policy, which includes but is not limited to: a) Website links, b) Emails and or texts, c) Publications (newspaper ads, flyers etc.), d) Receipts, e) Contact information for the person reporting the incident.

All complaints can be forwarded to Jim Plakas at jplakas@volleyballalberta.ca.