

Wisconsin Juniors' Frequently Asked Questions

Below we have addressed the most commonly asked questions about the Wisconsin Juniors Volleyball Club. Please feel free to contact us if you need additional information. We can be reached at jneave@wiscosninjuniors.com or 262-496-7284.

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Club Volleyball Basics

- What is club volleyball?
 - o Club volleyball is the organized formation of non-scholastic volleyball teams for the purposes of practice and competition. Almost all club volleyball programs associate with one or more governing organizations (USA Volleyball, AAU, JVA, Etc) in order to sanction their competitions. Club volleyball programs vary in their size and purpose. Some clubs serve a very small niche (e.g. low commitment/developmental, high commitment/elitist, etc). Others, like the Wisconsin Juniors, provide a wide array of opportunities.
- When are club-team tryouts?
 - o Club volleyball, in our area, holds tryouts in October/November. Please view our website for the specific dates/times/locations.

Wisconsin Juniors Basics

- What is the Wisconsin Juniors' mission?
 - o The mission of the Wisconsin is to positively impact everyone who walks through our doors.
- Is the Wisconsin Juniors a non-profit organization?
 - o Yes, the Wisconsin Juniors is an incorporated 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in the July of 1999. As a non-profit, the directors and staff acquire zero personal equity in the organization. If you would like documentation of the non-profit status, it can be furnished upon request.
- What does the Wisconsin Juniors offer?
 - o The Wisconsin Juniors offers camps, clinics and leagues for girls and boys K-12. Additionally, we offer beach volleyball programs, private lessons, hosted tournaments, and recruiting services. Ultimately, we are best known for our club volleyball program, of which we offer 5 different levels of training and competition within our club program.
 - **Developmental:** For student-athletes 8-11 yrs old wanting to play on a club team that focuses on having fun, learning the game, and improving both individual and team skills (No competition further than 60 minutes away).
 - **Youth Regional:** For student-athletes ages 10-14 yrs old wanting to play on a club team that provides the very best coaching, training, and competition, but within the confines of a local/regional competition schedule (No competition further than 90 minutes away).
 - **Youth National:** For the "elite" student-athlete wanting to compete at the very highest level possible—competing and traveling at the national level to do so.
 - **High School Regional:** For high school freshman, sophomores, and juniors wanting to train and compete at the very highest level during the Winter months and competing only in the states of Wisconsin and Illinois.
 - **High School National:** For high school student-athletes wanting to train and compete at the very highest level possible –competing at the national level to do so. Many student-athletes in this program have the goal of playing at the collegiate level.

Coaches and Administration

- Who coaches at the Wisconsin Juniors?
 - o The Wisconsin Juniors is extremely proud of our coaching staff, and feel that it is one of the strongest in the country. Our staff includes 9 current or former NCAA coaches, 18 former college volleyball athletes, 8 current or former high school varsity head coaches—three of whom have a combined 12 state championships. To view all photos and bios of all of our coaches, please visit our website (under the "staff" tab).
- Who runs the Wisconsin Juniors?
 - o The Wisconsin Juniors has an administrative team that is fully dedicated to the best customer service in all of club volleyball. We have three full-time staff members that are solely dedicated to the Wisconsin Juniors Volleyball Club. To view our administrative team, please visit our website (under the "staff" tab).

Teams & Tryouts

- How many players are on a team?
 - o By and large, we take 10 to a team. Some of our teams may have 11 players. We feel this is optimal for “fair” distribution of playing time while keeping teams adequately staffed through injuries and outside commitments.
- How many teams will be formed?
 - o Last year, the Wisconsin Juniors had 32 teams based out of our Pleasant Prairie location. In 2016-2017, we forecast adding 1-2 teams. It is our desire to offer an opportunity to all student-athletes who want to be trained by us to improve their volleyball skills. However, we are limited by the number of coaches we have, in addition to gym space.
- Does everyone make a team?
 - o While the majority of girls/boys who do tryout receive an offer to play on a team (last year, 83%), no, not everyone receives an offer. Again, while it is our desire to offer an opportunity to all student-athletes who want to be trained by us to improve their volleyball game, we are limited by the number of coaches we have, in addition to gym space.
- How are players chosen for a team?
 - o Player selection is, by far, the most difficult thing that we do at Wisconsin Juniors. Did you know that Tom Brady, potentially one of the best NFL quarterbacks to play the game, was selected as the 199th pick in the 2000 draft? Did you know that NFL sports teams spend millions of dollars to make the “right” decisions for their organization? Ultimately, we do our very best, but it is an imperfect process. At tryouts, we attempt to analyze a student-athlete’s acquired skill/talent *and* their future potential. We also pick teams in the hopes to create sufficient depth at all the necessary positions.
- What is the difference between the different teams?
 - o Teams differ, primarily, in their length of season and competition schedules. We offer 5 levels of club programming:
 - **Developmental:** For student-athletes 8-11 yrs old wanting to play on a club team that focuses on having fun, learning the game, and improving both individual and team skills (No competition further than 60 minutes away).
 - **Youth Regional:** For student-athletes ages 10-14 yrs old wanting to play on a club team that provides the very best coaching, training, and competition, but within the confines of a local/regional competition schedule (No competition further than 90 minutes away).
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 - **High School National:** For high school student-athletes wanting to train and compete at the very highest level possible –competing at the national level to do so. Many student-athletes in this program have the goal of playing at the collegiate level.
- Can parents watch tryouts?
 - o Parents of girls 14 and under are allowed to attend tryouts. Parents of high school aged student-athletes are not allowed to attend tryouts.
- When is the commitment date?
 - o The following are the rules dictated by our governing body/region:
 - 14 & Under Girls and Boys (born Sept. 1, 2001 and after) returning to the club they played for the previous season cannot be required to commit to the club in question until Tuesday, Oct. 11 @ 9:01pm. If trying out at a new/different club, Thursday, Oct. 13 @ 9:01pm.
 - 15 & Older Girls (born Aug. 31, 2001 and before) returning to the club they played for the previous season cannot be required to commit to the club in question until Tuesday, Nov. 15 @ 9:01pm. If trying out at a new/different club, Thursday, Nov 17 @ 9:01pm.

- Are commitments binding?
 - o Your commitment to play on a team (any club/team within the Badger Region) is binding once you select “Wisconsin Juniors” as your club on webpoint (webpoint is the online registration service used by the Badger Region). Once you sign the code of conduct and your commitment to play on a Wisconsin Juniors team, you are contractually and legally obligated to complete your team commitments.
- Can student-athletes “play up” with an older age group?
 - o Typically, our teams are strong enough, and filled with very talented athletes, such that any member of an age-group would be adequately challenged and fit well playing on a team within his or her age group. Accordingly, in general, we do not move student-athletes up age groups. In the rare instance that a player, in the perception of the club directors, would fit better on another team, we may offer to move her up. Also, occasionally, a particular position may need to be filled in an older age group. In either case, the directors of the club will be the initiators of placing the student-athlete on the older team.
- Can players be moved or added to a team after initial teams are assigned?
 - o Yes. We want to allow all of our student-athletes a fair opportunity to earn positions, even after tryouts. Here again, the directors will be the initiators of making such a change.

Practices and Club Season Policies

- Do teams practice together or separately?
 - o Both. We have three types of practices: Team, Competition, and Skills/Position. During team practices, teams have their own court and practice together as a team. During competition practices, teams practice as a team, but share a court with another team from within the club with the intention of doing various team vs. team competitions. During skills practices, the teams are mixed together as they do skill/position training.
- Does the Wisconsin Juniors do skill-specific training or position training?
 - o Yes. Somewhere between 33%-50% of our practice time is some type of skill training. The younger the student-athlete, and the earlier in the season, the higher percentage of training time that is dedicated to general skill training. The older the student-athlete, and the later in the season, the higher percentage of skill training that is position specific.
- Does the Wisconsin Juniors have a fitness and nutrition program?
 - o The Wisconsin Juniors has had a conditioning program for the past 7 years. We are firmly committed to providing the most safe and effective program possible within the confines of our practice format.
- How often do teams practice?
 - o All regional teams practice 2x/week. All national level practice approximately 10x/month, or 2.5x/month.
- Do teams have a “fixed” or “set” practice schedules?
 - o For the 2016-2017 season, most all teams will have “set” schedules – with some minor variance.
- When do teams practice?
 - o Teams 14 and under practice from 5:15-7:30. Teams 15 and older practice 7:00-9:30.
- Where do teams practice?
 - o The vast majority of Wisconsin Juniors practices are held at the Pleasant Prairie Rec-Plex. We do use the Sturtevant Sportsplex and some local area grade schools for off-site practice gyms. Again, the vast majority of Wisconsin Juniors practices are held at the Pleasant Prairie Rec-Plex.
- Are student-athletes allowed to play other sports?
 - o Yes, the Wisconsin Juniors encourages athletes to play multiple sports—especially when 15 and younger. The only thing that we ask is up-front communication with the team coach at the beginning of the season.

- Is there a playing time philosophy?
 - o Yes. The Wisconsin Juniors believes that playing time during competition is important to player-development. Accordingly, we have a minimum playing time policy. All players will be, at minimum, a 3-rotation player in one set of every match – unless the team is playing in a national qualifier or nationals and still in contention for gold, then there is no minimum playing time policy.
- What is the club policy for injuries and/or quitting the team?
 - o Players that resign from a team for any reason other than injury will receive zero refund.
 - o Players that are injured, as confirmed in writing by a medical professional, will receive a refund as follows:
 - Injured on Jan 1st or before - 50% refund of fees
 - Injured on Feb 1st or before – 30% refund of fees
 - Injured March 1st or before – 20% refund of fees for national team members only. Regional team players will receive no refund.
 - Injured after March 1st – no refund of fees

Tournaments and Travel

- Where are tournaments?
 - o Regional teams do not travel any further South than Chicago, no further West than Rockford, and no further North than Milwaukee. Our national level teams stay as local as possible to have a strong competition schedule. However, we are proud to say, our teams “need” to travel to get the competition they need. Accordingly, our national teams travel to such locations as Minneapolis, Indianapolis, Louisville, and Orlando.
- How often are tournaments?
 - o Tournaments begin in January, and are, roughly, 2x-3x per month – all of which are on weekends. There are no weeknight matches.
- What if we have conflicts?
 - o We understand that volleyball should not be a family’s top/only priority. We feel family, school, and religious commitments are a “greater” priority. Accordingly, we have an attendance policy that allows for scheduled commitments related to school activities and religion.
- What is your travel policy?
 - o When we travel to locations that require a hotel stay, all student-athletes are required to stay in the hotel that the team is staying at. Each family is responsible for getting their daughter lodging at that hotel. The Wisconsin Juniors does not chaperone student-athletes when they travel.

Parent Involvement

- What is the role of parents at Wisconsin Juniors?
 - o The Wisconsin Juniors recognizes the vital role that parents play in their daughter’s growth as a student-athlete. Also, we recognize that it is the parent or guardian’s responsibility to look out for, protect, and seek out their daughter/son’s best interest in any endeavor. Here is what the Wisconsin Juniors feels is a parents proper role:
 - Support the team and club, not just one’s own son or daughter.
 - Attempt to look out for, protect, and seek out the best interest of the team and the club, not just the best interest of one’s son or daughter—understanding that what is best for one, is not always best for the collective whole.
 - Keep “negative” or “critical” communication private and away from one’s daughter/son, team, and other parents.
 - Allow your son or daughter to develop their own opinions about the team coach, teammates, and club – recognizing that their opinion may be different from yours.
 - Actively seek positive ways to help the team and club.
- Do parents stay with athletes at travel tournaments?
 - o Yes. The Wisconsin Juniors does not provide chaperones. All student-athletes are required to stay at the team/club hotel. They may, however, stay in the hotel room of a teammate/clubmate.

- What are your parent policies?
 - o The Wisconsin Juniors has a code of conduct that must be completed prior to the start of practices. Violation of the code of conduct will result in suspension or removal from the club. Of significant importance, the club maintains a strict “48 hour rule” for communication.

Fees

- How much are club fees?
 - Fees change from year to year and start at \$749. Please contact us for our current fees.
- What is covered in team fees for developmental and regional teams?
 - o Our team fees include the following items: uniforms, gym bag, local tournament entry fees, practice gym rental, coach’s pay, nutrition and fitness trainer pay, administration costs, and recruiting assistance. There are no travel costs for these teams.
- What is covered in team fees for National teams?
 - o Our national team fee includes the following items: 1 pair of white Mizuno shoes, 2 pairs of white Mizuno socks, 1 pair of white Mizuno knee pads, 1 pair of spandex, jerseys, warm up top, warm up pants, club specific back pack, local tournament entry fees, practice gym rental, strength and conditioning coaches, team coaches, administration costs, and recruiting assistance. Travel costs are not included and vary by team.
- How are fees paid?
 - o An initial payment is made on our orientation meeting date (this year, Oct. 16th for 14U families; November 20th for HS aged families). The balance of team fees and travel fees will be due on a monthly basis, beginning on Jan. 15th. **All future payments will be collected at the team fee/orientation meeting at the beginning of the year.** These future payments will be collected one of two ways: (1) made with post-dated checks on the initial team meeting date -or- (2) by credit card via a monthly withdrawal. A 3% fee will be applied to credit card payments in order to cover the cost of the merchant service used.
 - Note: Special and/or flexible payment arrangements can be set up upon request. Such requests should be made to Jim Neave.
- Are there fundraising opportunities?
 - o The Wisconsin Juniors offers fundraising opportunities through the sale of practice t-shirt sponsorships. Also, many teams have done their own, independent fundraising – of which the Wisconsin Juniors help support and advertise.

Recruiting

- Will all Wisconsin Juniors student-athletes play in college?
 - o Ultimately, not everyone who steps into our program plays in college. However, most all of those student-athletes who play on one of our 18’s teams find a roster spot on a college volleyball team. Due to Title IX and the rapid growth of the sport of volleyball, there is an incredible opportunity for female athletes to play college volleyball. The Wisconsin Juniors works extremely hard to find all of our student-athletes a good home on a college team.
- How does the Wisconsin Juniors help with the recruiting process?
 - o In 2012, the Wisconsin Juniors hired Coach Evan Berg as the club’s full-time recruiting director. Coach Evan brings an extensive professional network, and a great knowledge base, to the Wisconsin Juniors’ program. Additionally...
 - o Starting in the 2015-16 season, the Wisconsin Juniors partnered with VolleyballRecruits.net. VolleyballRecruits.net is the best online platform built specifically for high school players to facilitate the recruiting process. Additionally...

- Included in one's club fees, the Wisconsin Juniors offers the following to all of our club athletes:
 - Membership to VolleyballRecruits.net through the Wisconsin Juniors.
 - Access to all the tools and features available through VolleyballRecruits.net
 - Coach Evan's assistance and availability to help with basic recruiting questions and needs.
 - A free recruiting seminar held in December.
 - A competition schedule that gets all of our athletes substantial exposure to College Scouts (click on any one of our National Team's competitions schedules on their team page).
 - An extremely informative recruiting page for College Coaches to learn about, and view, our athletes (click on the "Unsigned" and "Committed" tabs above).
 - Free educational resources for our athletes and families (click on the "For the Parents" recruiting tab).

In addition to the above, skills videotaping services will be available through Evan Berg and will be incorporated into our current Wisconsin Juniors Website, recruiting pages, and your VolleyballRecruits.net profile.

- Where do I learn more about the recruiting process?
 - The Wisconsin Juniors has the majority of our educational resources on our website under the "Recruiting" tab. Of special interest is our "For the Parents" page. Additionally, every winter, the Wisconsin Juniors holds a recruiting seminar for all families of student-athletes of recruitable age.

The Extended Season Program

- What is the Extended Season Program?
 - The Extended Season Program is a program designed to provide student-athletes on regional club teams (Wisconsin Juniors Teams, Wisconsin Juniors' Affiliate Teams, or other club teams), the opportunity to continue their season through June – concluding at a year-end tournament either downtown Chicago or the Wisconsin Dells. These tryouts are open to any student-athlete playing on a regional team. Tryouts for these teams are held in mid-late March.