



Athlete Signing Rules and Expectations:

1. Signing Date Rule:

a. A junior player may not make a binding commitment to a team or club until the first day their age group has try outs. Any verbal commitment made prior to their age group's first tryout date is non-binding. While a club can make a verbal offer to a player before the signing date and a player can verbally accept the offer, a club contract contains the whole of the agreement between the club and the player and is not in force until the contract is signed, on or after the signing date, and not before. Once a contract has been signed with a club, you are committed to play with that club. No non-refundable deposits can be required before the contract signing date.

2. Recruiting Policy:

a. Definition of terms used within this policy are as follows:

i. Recruiting – Solicitation of any player or their parents by a club representative for the purpose of securing a player's participation in the club.

ii. Club Representative – Any coach, head administrator, or parent affiliated with a particular club.

iii. Parent Affiliated with a Club – Any parent who is under contract with a club during that team's club season or in a leadership position with that club (club administrator, registrar, etc.)

iv. Open Recruiting Period – One (1) Open Recruiting Period is recognized:
Summer: From the end of the USA Junior National Championships to the beginning of High School pre-season practices.

v. Closed Recruiting Period – One(1) closed Recruiting Periods is recognized:
From the first day of High School Pre-season to the end of the Puget Sound Region Junior USAV Season.

vi. Club Contract Timeframe – Period of time within the Junior USAV season when a contract is signed by a player and/or parent/guardian with a given club to the end of the Junior USAV season.

vii. Incumbent – is a player who played with a club during the last season.

b. Club representatives may not approach a high school player that did not play in their club the previous season regarding the USAV program during their High School season. Clubs can contact incumbents during their High School season.

c. Club representatives may not approach a player from another club regarding the USAV program during the closed recruiting period, except as noted differently within this policy.

d. Club representative may respond to questions from a player or their parents about club volleyball and their particular club without being in violation of the recruiting policy. The amount of permissible contact is limited to responding to questions asked by the player or their parents about the club. Soliciting the player's participation is not allowed during the closed recruiting period.

e. Club Orientation During Closed Recruiting Period – each club is entitled to one (1) open house or general club orientation meeting prior to the eligible tryout dates. The sole purpose of this orientation is to allow potential volleyball players to learn more about the club volleyball process in a general lecture format. This format CANNOT have individual invitations sent out to any person that has played in another club in the previous season. You can invite former members from your own club, make general (blanket) announcements in the paper, on your website, on a flyer, or general local coach announcements to pass along to their team. During the open house (orientation) you cannot have a one-on-one recruiting conversation with any individual player who has competed in a different club in the previous season (Recruiting conversation consists of encouraging the player/family to join a team, promising the player/family anything if they join the club, or any direct sell to an individual that played in another club). There can be no balls or physical activities arranged during the orientation. Violation of this rule will result in potential ineligibility of the player being recruited for the year and suspension and fine of the club.

f. Reports of policy violations are to be made in writing to the Region Commissioner. Before the written complaint is filed, a phone call should be made to the PSR-USAV office for an initial determination of whether or not the claim is valid. Upon receipt of said written complaint, the Region Commissioner will investigate the event with the player in question. If a violation appears to have taken place, the Region Commissioner will make a determination of whether or not sanctions are recommended. See the conduct section of this document for more details.

g. Consequences for violations of the policy:

Self-Reported Violations: 1st Offense – Suspension of the coach from all coaching activities for a one (1) month period, dating from the date of the incident, or January 1st, whichever comes last. 2nd Offense – Suspension of the coach from all coaching activities for a two (2) month period, dating from the date of the incident, or January 1st, whichever comes last.

Non-Self Reported Violations: 1st Offense – Suspension of the coach from all coaching activities for a two (2) month period, dating from the date of the incident, or January 1st, whichever comes last. 2nd Offense – Suspension of the coach for the rest of the current Junior USAV season. Any and all sanctions may be appealed to the Board of Directors (see section on Due Process in the conduct section of this document.)

3. Committing and/or Signing with a Club:

- a. The PSR Junior sanctioned season begins with the first published tryout date (usually in the first week of November), and concludes with the Junior Olympic National Championships (generally the first week of July).
- b. The PSR deems a player to be “committed” to a junior club as soon as a player signs a valid club-player contract.
- c. A player may not “commit” with more than one club.
- d. A player may not “commit” before their age group can officially conduct tryouts.
- e. As stated in the Recruiting Policy, once a player has committed to a team during the PSR sanctioned season, club directors and coaches from other PSR clubs shall not contact that player, or their family for reasons of recruitment to their club or team. A recruiting violation occurs when, once notified of a commitment to another club, a Club Representative from one PSR registered club makes or continues verbal or written contact with a committed athlete or her parents/guardians, from another PSR registered club with the intent of persuading the player to leave her present club to join another club. In this scenario, club-initiated recruiting violations are subject to a minimum \$100 fine to the club and possible suspension. If the committed player or parent/guardian makes the initial contact, a club director or coach may inform the player of parent/guardian, without fear of committing a recruiting violation, about the specific program.
- f. Players who have committed to a club and then wish to transfer to another club must follow the PSR Procedure of Player Transfer. This is irrespective of the length of a player’s membership with that club and can be done at any time during the official USAV sanctioned