

RMR "Summer 26" Recruitment and Signing Plan

For the 26-27 USAV season

Philosophy:

- **Athletes should be allowed to enjoy a stable and uninterrupted club volleyball season**
 - Therefore, recruiting (*contact by club or agent with intent to cause athlete to change clubs*) is prohibited during the regular season
 - Particularly, recruitment-contact with athletes while on-site at any athletic event is prohibited all year.
 - **NO RECRUITING, NO OFFERS, NO INDUCEMENTS etc. during the Regular Season.**
 - *Affiliated athletes are prohibited from participating in another club's team practice or team-activities*
- During the Regular Season, clubs *may* offer "skills programming" (camps, clinics, lessons, etc.) for any athlete *regardless of affiliation*
 - Clubs may not require attendance at these "skills-instruction" events
 - "Targeted Invitations" are prohibited; Skills camps/clinics etc. must be open to general audiences

Seasons:

- The RMR seeks to establish general calendar zones during which various types of contact should be focused.
- Our intent is to stay out of the way of clubs that offer great instructional content all year
- Meanwhile, those that recruit out of season, offer inducements, or apply inappropriate pressure to athletes should expect to be sanctioned.
- Summer Camps should be voluntary and of instructional nature
- The term "Open Gym" should mean just that: *No recruitment pressure, no mandatory attendance*
- Tryouts will be held for specific, intentionally short periods in July and August (see calendar below)

Offers:

- The Offer Commitment System Portal will open in mid-Tryouts, so that some athletes know they are complete, and others can double down!
- Club offers may be placed by Directors into the RMR Offer Commitment System (OCS) Portal at any time through the summer
- Those Formal Offers will be released to all 15-18 or 14&U athletes simultaneously, at **8pm** on the "Opening Day" for that age group (see below)
- Offers are required to be left open to athletes for a minimum of 48 hours, so that the family has time to consider its options
- Athletes may accept an offer at OCS immediately, or may continue to Try-out
- Clubs may choose to extend offer(s) beyond the initial 48 hours, or may opt to pursue other athletes.

Reminders:

- The RMR does not recognize, and actively discourages any form of so-called "verbal or pre-offer," regardless of how those might be delivered
- Inducements such as gifts of money or goods are strictly prohibited by USAV and RMR and are subject to review and sanction.
- Discussion of scholarships should be made in writing at the athlete contract, which may not be sent until AFTER commitment at OCS.
- **Only Formal Offers processed via the RMR OCS Portal are binding.**
- *Athletes and families are reminded that any "early commitment" requests made prior to OCS Portal Opening, are unreliable and should be avoided*

Summer 26:

- The "Summer Camp" Season begins June 1st, and runs **through the Independence Day weekend**
- Athletes are encouraged to visit as many clubs as they would like during the summer
- Clubs **may** directly invite athletes to summer camp programming, and may discuss club philosophy, opportunities, etc.
- Summer camps are not designed to be recruitment-driven. Families should never be pressured to "pre-commit"
- Clubs **may not** require athlete attendance during the Summer Camp Season
- **Clubs are encouraged to allow families time for vacation during the "summer camp" season.**

Open Evaluation Period: (*relevant to any player who will compete on a 15s or older team*)

- Monday July 6th begins a four-day "Open Evaluation Period" for athletes who intend to play on 15-18s teams
- During these 4 days, all athletes are under active assessment toward placement into teams
- Clubs may (at any time) "verbally" indicate that they intend to make a Formal Offer to the athlete through the Portal
- Athletes/families should **not** feel pressured to "reciprocate" in any way.
 - If pressured, offer a response like: *"We look forward to seeing your offer at the Portal"*
- Clubs may not require payment of any Club Deposits until after the Portal opens and families formally accept their offer there.

15s-18s Portal Opening Date and Contracts: (*relevant to any player who will compete on a 15s or older team*)

- The OCS Portal will open for 15s-18s at **8pm** on Thursday July 9th
- All offers that have been placed into the Portal thus far by directors, will be delivered (within approximately 20 minutes)
- All OCS Offers must remain open to the athlete for a minimum of 48 hours, after which the Offer expires automatically
- Athletes may accept Offers immediately, or may exercise their 48 hour option.
- After the initial 48 hour period, Clubs may opt to renew unaccepted offers, or they may opt to move on to other players.
- **Clubs may send contracts and begin to receive deposits as soon as athlete and family formally accept their offer at the Portal**

15s-18s Tryouts: (*relevant to any player who will compete on a 15s or older team*)

- The RMR Tryout Period begins at 9am **Friday July 10th.**
- As during Open Evaluation, at Tryouts all players are under active evaluation and assessment towards placement into specific teams
- During Tryouts, Clubs may create and send OCS Portal Offers "on the spot" but may NOT require immediate commitment by athlete/family.
- The OCS Portal Offer process is otherwise the same as described above, including 48 hour response time concept.
- Once an offer has been formally accepted at the OCS Portal, the Club may send **athlete contracts** etc. immediately.
- Contracts and requests for payment of Club Deposit may not occur until AFTER a family/athlete has formally accepted the Clubs offer through OCS

10s-14s Recruitment:

- The recruitment process for 14 and Unders is identical to that of the 15-18s, but utilizes the following date thresholds
 - **Open Evaluations** begin 9am Monday August 17th. (*RMR recommends that 14U athlete/families enjoy summer vacation until this time*)
 - The OCS Portal will open for 14 and Under teams at **8pm** on Thursday August 20th
 - The RMR 14 & Under **Tryout Period** begins at 9am Friday August 21st.