



## 2025-26 Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
<p>What is Rockford JO Volleyball?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rockford Junior Olympic (JO) Volleyball is a part of the Rockford Area Athletic Association and is a member of the <b>Junior Volleyball Association (JVA)</b>, which supports youth volleyball clubs nationwide. JVA provides tournament opportunities, insurance, and club resources.</li> <li>• The primary goal of Rockford JO Volleyball is to develop a strong base of youth players who can grow through the program and eventually contribute to their high school volleyball teams. Our program emphasizes skill development, personal growth, and strong team dynamics in a supportive environment to prepare athletes for future competitive play.</li> <li>• As of the 2025-26 season, Rockford JO Volleyball no longer participates in <b>USA Volleyball</b> or its regional affiliate, <b>North Country Region (NCR)</b>. All competitions and affiliations are now through JVA-sanctioned events.</li> <li>• The change to JVA better supports our semi-competitive—and in some cases recreational—teams, offering more flexibility in scheduling, tournament options, and club management. JVA’s structure aligns well with the needs of Rockford players and families.</li> <li>• Rockford offers a more affordable option for families, with registration around <b>\$350</b>—significantly lower than nearby JO clubs, which can cost <b>\$1,500 or more</b>, even just 15 minutes away.</li> </ul>
<p>How do I register?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit the JO Volleyball registration page on the RAAA website (<a href="http://www.raaasports.com/jo-volleyball-registration">www.raaasports.com/jo-volleyball-registration</a>).</li> <li>• Select the grade you are registering for and complete the required information.</li> <li>• Pay the registration fee in full or split payments and submit.</li> <li>• <b>IMPORTANT:</b> With the RAAA JO Volleyball transition to JVA, you will no longer be required to pay an additional \$60 fee for USAV membership for associated tournament registrations.</li> </ul>
<p>How are teams formed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A minimum of 8 players are required per team as at least 6 players are needed for tournaments.</li> <li>• If the number of players requires more than one team to form at an age level, the board will determine team formation criteria. While skill-based evaluations may be used, other factors may also be considered, such as:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Friend requests (supporting social connection/enjoyment)</li> <li>○ Balance-loaded teams (ensuring equitable distribution of experience, leadership, and skill)</li> <li>○ School or geographic alignment (to simplify logistics and foster community)</li> <li>○ Sibling placement (to accommodate family preferences)</li> <li>○ Coach or volunteer availability (to support team viability)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Is volunteering required?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, volunteering helps keep program costs low. If every family does not fulfill at least one volunteer shift, registration fees will need to increase for the following season to cover program expenses.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for the 2025-26 season are still being solidified and may include meat raffles and hosting duties during the state basketball tournament in early March; shift length will vary based on available opportunity.</li> <li>• Watch for emails from RAAAJO Volleyball communicating opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p>What are the uniform requirements?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each player receives a jersey and warm-up with registration.</li> <li>• Jerseys follow a three-year cycle—players reuse them until a new style is introduced. The current style began in 2024–25 and will update again for the 2027-28 season. Replacement jerseys are available for purchase if lost or outgrown.</li> <li>• Jersey try-ons are available at parent meetings, pre-season open gyms and the first team practices for players requiring a new one.</li> <li>• Players must wear black bottoms, with the exception of a libero*, who may wear a different color. Styles allowed include spandex of any length, with additional USA Volleyball governed options provided here: <a href="#">2023-2024-USAV Uniforms Requirements-updated927-1.pdf (usavolleyball.org)</a></li> <li>• Players must provide their own knee pads of any color and indoor-only court shoes (e.g., basketball shoes). These should be separate from the shoes worn into practice to protect gym floors.</li> </ul> <p>*A libero is a defensive specialist who plays in the back row and wears a different colored jersey.</p>
<p>When and where are games or tournaments?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tournaments can occur as early as January and as late as through April. Locations are <i>typically</i> within a roughly one-hour drive time.</li> <li>• Admissions for spectators at tournaments (including parents) can be expected to range from \$5-10.</li> <li>• Teams can expect between 4-7 tournaments or playdates per season, with younger ages being more limited to options.</li> </ul>
<p>When are practices?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to gym space commitments and arrangements with other sports, practices follow a standard schedule of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sunday afternoons (either 1-3 or 3-5) and</li> <li>○ Either Tuesday or Thursday evenings</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Practices begin early December, following November Skills and Drills. <b>Note:</b> Skills and Drills is designed to give younger age groups gym time to assist early team formation if multiple are needed.</li> <li>• Coaches may cancel practices due to availability, tournament recovery (e.g., the day after a Saturday event), or other scheduling conflicts. Optional practices may be offered with neighboring age groups or on days beyond the regular Sunday/Tuesday schedule. All practice times and locations will be posted in Sports Engine.</li> <li>• <b>IMPORTANT: Notify coaches in advance of any absences (practices or games), whether due to illness, travel, or other commitments.</b></li> </ul>
<p>What other requirements are there?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rockford JO Volleyball requires players to learn officiating skills for tournaments and playdates where other officiating is not available. This may include line judging, scorekeeping and refereeing (R1 (“up ref”) or R2 (“down ref”).</li> <li>• As officiating training was previously included with our USAV membership, RAAA JO Volleyball will provide other opportunities to complete training for the 2025-26 season.</li> </ul>