

2025 Season Plan



CAO 8 Oct 2024

Overview

- Club History
- Tryout info
- USAV Age Definitions
- Practices
- Coaches
- Tournament Schedule
- Grassroots
- Boys
- Cost
- Hotels
- Recruiting
- Camps/Lessons

Sharks History

- Founded in 2013 by Club Director, Andy Faulkner, with one 13u team
 - NVC then Niceville Waves and now Sharks
 - Longest running club in Niceville area- same club, same leadership, different names through the years until we settled on Sharks
- 2019 First senior class (from first 13u team) included 8 college signings (most to date)
- 2020 was our most successful season yet even with C-19. We finished the season on grass courts and all 4 teams finished Top 10 at Nationals in their age group/division, including 5th place for 13u/15u and 3rd for 16u.
- 2021 we finished Top 3 in 3 out of 6 age groups (14u/15u/16u) entered in Regionals (highest percentage of any region club)
- 2022 18u finished 5th at AAU Nationals in 18 Premier. 13u finished 4th in the Gulf Coast Region and 15u finished 5th.
- 2023 18u finished 5th again at AAU Nationals in 18 Premier. 18u won the Gulf Coast Region championship and also won a bid to USAV Nationals by finishing 3rd at the Southeast National Qualifier in USA. 12u, 13u, and 16u all finished Top 5 in the Region. All four seniors signed with four year schools and 3 signed with Division 1 teams. 1st year with a Boys team.
- 2024 17u won the region and competed at USAV Nationals in Las Vegas, we finished top 10 in the region in 6 age groups in AES (18u-1st, 17u-1st, 13u-4th, 12u-5th, 15u-9th, 14u-10th). 5 out of our 6 seniors from 18u signed and are playing college volleyball. 2nd year of Boys club.

Tryouts

- Sunday Oct 20th at Choctaw HS
 - Boys: 3:00-5:00
- Sunday Oct 27th at Choctaw HS
 - 11u/12u: 2:00-3:30
 - 13u: 3:30-5:30
 - 14u: 5:30-7:30
- Sunday Nov 3rd at Choctaw HS
 - 15u: 2:00-4:00
 - 16u: 4:00-6:00
 - 17u/18u: 6:00-8:00
 - Note: If one of our feeder high schools advances to the State Finals we will offer a makeup for those athletes since they aren't allowed to tryout until their HS season ends.
- Register in advance with \$40 tryout fee. See website for instructions.
- A USAV membership is required to tryout. There is a tryout membership available but if you make the team unfortunately you still have to pay the full membership before practices begin. So if you are confident you will make a team then it is recommended to just get the full junior membership (or developmental for grassroots). If you are unsure if you'll make a team then the tryout membership will save you some money if you don't make a team.
- **Please register ASAP but definitely NLT Friday prior to tryouts to help with our planning.**
- Bring all required forms (downloadable on website)
- Notary will be available on site for medical releases
- Uniform samples will be available to try on for sizing
- No tryouts for grassroots. Just register and send in payment. Instructions are on website. Spots are limited

Tryout Results

- Will be sent to parent emails provided at sign-ins (write legibly)
- To accept spot- reply to email with commitment & signed contract (will be provided via email), pay non-refundable deposit (paypal), accept Sportsengine invitation to Sharks (if not already registered with Sharks using the direct link on our website)
- We will need to place uniform orders asap after the 3 Nov tryout date to have jerseys here by the December tournament. Expect the team store to open on Nov 6th and close by Sunday Nov 12th which will essentially be the last day to accept your spot on the team due to the uniform deadline.
- May combine age groups if needed to form Silver teams (15u/16u, 13u/14u, etc)
- We expect to have multiple teams in some age groups.

USAV Age definitions



USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR PLAYER AGE DEFINITION For use during the 2024-2025 Season

To determine the correct age division, please find the Month of Birth in the left column and then the year of birth in the same row. The heading of the column matching the Year of Birth is the correct age bracket.

	18 & Under ¹	18 & Under ²	17 & Under	16 & Under	15 & Under ³	14 & Under ⁴	13 & Under ⁵	12 & Under	11 & Under	10 & Under	9 & Under	8 & Under
July	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Aug	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Sept	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Oct	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Nov	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Dec	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Jan	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Feb	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Mar	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Apr	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
May	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
June	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017

¹ Players who were born on or after July 1, 2005 and a high school student in the twelfth (12th) grade or below during some part of the current academic year are eligible to compete in 18 & under.

² **Female Only** - Players who were born on or after July 1, 2006, (who are defined as 18 & under by the USAV Age Definition) and are in the 11th grade for the current academic year are eligible to compete in 17 & under. (This exception is based on recruiting concerns for 11th grade girls previously required to participate in girls 18's qualifiers and the 18's GJNC.)

³ **Male Only** - Players who were born on or after July 1, 2010, OR players who were born on or after July 1, 2009 (15 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the eighth (8th) grade during the current academic year **are eligible to play in the 14 & Under division**. This exception is based on the net height difference of 7'4 1/8" to 7'11 5/8" between the 14 and Under Division to the 15 and Under Division.

⁴ **Male Only** - Players who were born on or after July 1, 2010 (14 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the seventh grade (7th) during the current academic year are eligible for a Region approved waiver to compete in the boys 13's age group.

⁵ **Male Only** - Players who were born on or after July 1, 2011 (13 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the sixth grade (6th) during the current academic year are eligible for a Region approved waiver to compete in the boys 12's age group.

Practices

- Boys begin 1 Nov. Girls teams will begin Dec 1st. Grassroots will begin in early December. We will take a break for most teams during Fall Break (Boys), Spring Break, and around Christmas this year. The Music City Qualifier on 3/15-3/17 is the first weekend of Okaloosa Spring Break so please don't book other trips that weekend if you plan to play on a 13-18u national (Navy) team.
- All teams will practice a minimum of 2x per week. The goal for 12u-18u is 3x per week with the 3rd practice being positional training. Sundays of most non-tournament weeks will be position training led by Sharks coaches including previous NCAA D1 coaches/players conducted primarily at Choctaw HS.
- Practice locations:
 - Choctaw High School, 110 Racetrack Rd NW, FWB
 - Rocky Bayou Christian School, 2101 Partin Drive N, Niceville
 - Ruckel Middle School and Destin Middle School are also potential locations if not enough gym time is available at the primary locations
- The goal for each week is to have one team practice, one combined practice with a similar skilled team for more 6 on 6 play, and Sunday positional training. It is important to attend all sessions so we can grow as individuals as well as teams.

Coaching Plan

- 18U- Andy Faulkner
- 17U- Gil Sierra
- 16U- Ray Lovelace (through Regionals then Madi Miller(Mercer) will takeover for May-June)
- 16U or 14U Silver- TBD
- 15U- Challiss Topolski
- 14U- Chelsae Bryant
- 13U- Layne Stine
- 12U- Kamryn Cook
- Grassroots- Kaci Thornton and 18u assistants
- Boys- Mitzi Gargus
- Coach bios are on the website

Schedule Philosophy

- Sharks fees includes AAU National Championships and summer season training for all Navy/National teams 12U and up. Compare with other clubs...
- Silver teams (2nd team in an age group) end their seasons at regionals in April.
- Boys teams will run Nov-Feb to be done before the FHSAA spring season start date of Feb 10. There is potential to come back for AAU Nationals after the HS season ends but that will be a separate tryout with additional fees.
- 2 region tournaments are required to qualify for regionals. To avoid having to do back to back weekends and/or any weekends around Spring Break we will go to the earlier December region event in Mobile again this year.
- All teams will attend both the Sunshine National Qualifier and the Big South National Qualifier. Our 13u-18u Navy teams will get a 3rd qualifier in New Orleans this year (Music City). This is the Southern region qualifier for the Liberty divisions and why Big South only has American/USA/Open.
- 18u is focused on Qualifiers/Recruiting. This team is focused on training for those girls planning to continue playing in college and recruiting for those uncommitted seniors (and potentially some juniors). We minimize smaller/regional tournaments to allow seniors more free time for senior activities.

Tournament Schedule

Date	Event, Location	Stay and Play?	12u-17u National Teams	18u National	Regional Teams	Boys
12/7-12/8	JJVA Boys Jingle Ball Holiday Classic, Jacksonville FL	-				X
12/14-12/15	Port City Volley Jolley, Mobile, AL	-	X	X	X	X
1/4-1/5	Hall of Fame, Foley AL	-				X
1/11-1/12	JJVA Tropical Ice, Jacksonville FL	-	X	X		
1/11-1/12	Pounders Open, Foley AL	-			X	
2/1-2/3	Florida Fest Girls 18u & Boys National Qualifier, Orlando FL	YES		X		X
2/8-2/9	Bama Brawl, Montgomery, AL	-	X		X	
2/21-2/23	Southeast 18u National Qualifier, Atlanta, GA (GICC)	YES		X		
2/22-2/24	Sunshine National Qualifier (12/13/14/15), Orlando, FL	YES	X (date depends on age)		X (date depends on age)	
2/28-3/2	Sunshine National Qualifier (16/17/18), Orlando, FL			X		
3/8-3/9	Wavefest, Foley, AL	-	X (12u only)		X	
3/15-3/17	Music City National Qualifier, NOLA	YES	X (13u-18u only)	X		
3/28-3/30	Big South National Qualifier, Atlanta, GA (GWCC)	YES	X	X	X	
4/12-4/13	Battle of the Bay, Foley AL	-	X		X	
4/26-4/27	11u-13u Gulf Coast Region Championships, Foley, AL	-	X (location depends on age)	X	X	
4/26-4/27	14u-18u Gulf Coast Region Championships, Mobile, AL					
5/24-5/26	Sugar Bowl AAU Grand Prix, NOLA, LA	-	X			
TBD (Jun)	AAU National Championships, Orlando, FL	-	X	X		

- The tournaments marked with a YES in the Stay and Play column require families to book through the room block for those as soon as it's posted in Slack so we are accepted into the events. If we don't meet the deadlines we can be waitlisted/ bumped from the tournament. All the others you are free to book wherever you'd like.

Grassroots

- Program designed to teach basic volleyball skills to 3rd-6th grade boys and girls and provide a very basic level of competition in 3-4 x 4 hour “play days”
- 2 x 1.5 hr practices a week from 8 Dec-Apr 25 (18 weeks/ 36 practices)
- 4 local “play days” including Friday Apr 25th Grassroots Championships at Regionals in Mobile
- Sharks will attempt to host one play day
- Grassroots play day dates are usually set by the region in Dec/Jan. T-shirt style jersey included

Boys specifics

- The goal is to have 2 teams- 18u for the HS aged boys and a 14U or 15U for the MS aged boys and/or some 9th graders. If we only have enough for 1 team it'll be an 18u team.
- Boys season will run from 1 Nov - 3 Feb with the potential to add a summer AAU Nationals season once the HS season ends.
- The season must end before the FHSAA first practice date for spring (10 Feb) since some of our boys will be participating on High School Varsity teams.
- Boys Tournament Schedule (will also add some scrimmage days):
JJVA Dec 7-8, Jacksonville
Volly Jolly Dec 14-15, Mobile
HOF Jan 4-5, Foley
FL Fest Boys USAV Qualifier Feb 1-3, Orlando (Stay and Play)

Cost

- **13u-18u Navy- \$2600**
- **Boys teams- \$1000**
- **12u Navy- \$2400**
- **Grassroots- \$500**
- **All Silver teams- \$1900**

- Includes all training, coach pay, coach hotels, gym rentals, tournament entry fees, director fee, and 2 practice shirts.
- Includes HUDL for all girls teams this year. Last year we found HUDL can a valuable tool for all ages and skill levels
- Payable monthly via Paypal/Credit Card.
- For a **\$100 discount** pay your season fees in full by **cash or check** by the acceptance deadline (does not apply to Grassroots)
- Does not include parent/player hotels or uniforms. Most uniform items can be used from previous seasons for returning players. We plan to get new jerseys for 2025 so everyone will need to order those.
- For new female players, the entire uniform package is approximately \$300. Includes Spandex (2), Jerseys (3), warm-up top, warm-up shorts, backpack. Boys package is TBD but will be less and include jerseys/shorts/backpack only
- Fundraising will be available via advertising sponsorships

Uniforms

- Uniforms are the responsibility of the parents to order and are not included in the season fees. This is because not everyone will need all items since returners can re-use uniforms from previous seasons. Returning players will have priority on choosing their numbers. This year for girls teams we plan to get new jerseys and add a third jersey since we play so many 3 day tournaments. Expect female player uniforms to be around \$300.
- Boys uniforms will be around \$150 and will use the same jerseys as last year.
- Team store for Boys and 12u-14u Girls will open on Oct 28th and close on Nov 3rd. The team store will reopen for 15u-18u girls on Nov 4th and close on Nov 10th. Items will ship directly to players and we are doing two rounds this year to ensure the boys and younger girls have their gear before their first tournament. We hope for the older girls to have theirs as well but it won't be guaranteed. The December tournament in Mobile has a lax uniform policy and we can wear Christmas themed t-shirts if desired or if the uniforms don't come in by then.

Hotels

- This year the Club Hotel Manager (Kristen Hull) will manage all stay and play tournaments. Parents must book through the links provided. Parents will be responsible for booking their own rooms for all other events.
- Stay and Play tournaments require a minimum number of room nights per team. If we don't meet them we get kicked out of tournament or waitlisted. Your cooperation is appreciated with the stay and play policies
 - Applies to all Qualifiers- Sunshine/Music City/Big South/SEQ/FL Fest
- For the Qualifiers it is imperative that you book as soon as the link is posted or we will not be accepted into the event and waitlisted. This is why some clubs have moved tryouts to July but that isn't necessary as long as you will book your hotels before tryouts. You can always cancel them later if you don't play on the team.
- We may have room blocks for non Stay and play events and these will be optional
- AAU Nationals in Orlando is NOT a stay and play so you can book wherever you'd like. This is a major reason we choose AAU Nationals over USAV Nationals each year.

Recruiting (15-18u)

- Players should at a minimum have the free University Athlete and Field Level profiles updated before the first tournament
- Players should email coaches their schedule. Talk with your club coach or director for your realistic college potential so you email the right colleges.
- VIDEO- All girls teams will use HUDL. One parent volunteer will be required to film/upload the video at each tournament. We'll need a primary and a back-up who know how to do it for each team. Players will be able to make clips for their online recruiting profiles

Camps/Lessons

- Summer camps will continue at various area gyms
- Lessons (individual or small group) will be available this year at various area gyms during non-team practice times

Questions

- You can email questions to the club director at sharksvballclub@gmail.com or message us on the Sharks Volleyball Club Facebook page