

2026 Boys Season Plan



CAO 21 Sept 2025

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Sharks History

- Founded in 2013 by Club Director, Andy Faulkner, with one 13u girls 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.**
- 2025 17u and 18u won bids to USAV nationals. 13u won an AAU National Championship, 18u won a Bronze medal, 17u finished 9th, and 14u finished 11th. 17u also finished 13th/ 48 at USAV Nationals. We had 5 AAU All Americans. We finished Top 10 in the region in 6 age groups again in AES (1st in 18u, 2nd in 13u, 2nd in 14u, 10th in 15u, 7th in 16u, 6th in 17u). 13 college commitments so far in the 2025/2026 classes. **Had enough players and formed for 2 Boys teams**

Boys Tryouts

- Sunday Oct 5th at Choctaw HS
 - Boys: 3:00-5:00
- 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)
- Plan ahead because the medical release form requires a notary
- 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 via PayPal. If you use a different email from PayPal tryout registration then include that email in the notes of the PayPal payment.
- 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 Oct 5th tryout date to have jerseys here by the 1st tournament. Expect the team store to open on Oct 6th and close by Sunday Oct 12th which will essentially be the last day to accept your spot on the team due to the uniform deadline.
- Team age group (18u/17u/16u/etc) will depend on number of boys in each age group who show up at tryouts. We will do the best we can for the majority of the boys to form teams that make sense based on age and ability. In the past we've only had 18u because we had several who had to play 18u and not enough to form separate younger teams. If we have enough for 18u and 16u/14u/etc we will attempt to make those other teams work.

USAV Age definitions



USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR PLAYER AGE DEFINITION For use during the 2025-2026 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	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Aug	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Sept	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Oct	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Nov	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Dec	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Jan	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Feb	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Mar	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Apr	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
May	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
June	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018

¹Players who were born on or after July 1, 2006 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.

^{2a}Players in this age range that have graduated high school are ineligible only if they have been enrolled at a university, college, community college or junior college AND have been cleared to participate by that (volleyball) program.

^{2b}Players who were born on or after July 1, 2007, (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.

³**Male Only** - Players who were born on or after July 1, 2011 OR players who were born on or after July 1, 2010 (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 is because 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, 2011 (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, 2012 (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 practices will begin Sunday Oct 12th.
- Boys practice days/locations:
 - Sundays at Choctaw High School, 110 Racetrack Rd NW, FWB
 - Tuesdays at Milton First Baptist Church, 6797 Caroline St, Milton FL
- 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.

Boys Coaching Plan

- 18u/Director- Mitzi Gargus
- 18u Asst Coach- Nate Augustin
- Coach bios are on the website

Schedule Philosophy

- Boys teams will run Oct-Feb to be done before the FHSAA spring season start date of Feb 10.
- We plan to hold a 2nd tryout for AAU Nationals after the HS season ends which will be a separate season with additional fees.

Tournament Schedule

- JJVA Jingle Bell Classic, Dec 6-7, Jacksonville FL
- Port City Volley Jolly, Dec 13-14, Mobile AL
- Hall Of Fame, Jan 10-11, Foley AL
- FL Fest Boys National Qualifier, 1/24-1/26, Orlando FL
- Beast of Southeast, 1/31-2/1, Suwanee GA
- Fl Fest and Beast of Southeast are “Stay and Plays” and 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. Fl Fest room block is already posted and expires 9/28

Grassroots

- Program designed to teach basic volleyball skills to 3rd-5th 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 7 Dec-Apr 25 (18 weeks/ 36 practices)
- 4 local “play days” including Friday Apr 24th Grassroots Championships at Regionals in Mobile
- Sharks will attempt to host at least one play day
- Grassroots play day dates are usually set by the region in Dec/Jan.
- T-shirt style jersey included

Cost

- **Boys teams- \$1250**
- **Grassroots- \$500**
- Includes all training, coach pay, coach hotels, gym rentals, tournament entry fees, director fee, and 2 practice shirts.
- **Includes HUDL for all girls & boys teams this year.**
- Payable monthly via Paypal/Credit Card.
- For a **\$50 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.
- Boys package cost is TBD 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. Teams will have 3 jerseys since we play so many 3 day tournaments.
- Uniform store for boys will be open Oct 6th-12th (week after tryouts)

Hotels

- The Club Hotel Manager 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
- 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 boys and 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