

2026 Season Plan



CAO 21 Sept 2025

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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/FWB/Destin area- same club, same leadership, different names through the years until we settled on Sharks
 - 41 college signings and counting, 1 National Championship, 8 x Top 5 National finishes, 9 AAU All-American Selections, and 5 Gulf Coast Region Championships.
- 2019 First senior class (from first 13u team) included 8 college signings. We've had 41 college signings and counting since that first senior class in 2019. 18u finished 5th at AAU Nationals and had 1 All-American selection.
- 2020 was our most successful season to that point 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 with 1 All-American selection.
- 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 and had 1 All-American selection. 13u finished 4th in the Gulf Coast Region and 15u finished 5th.
- 2023 18u finished 5th again at AAU Nationals in 18 Premier. and had 1 AAU All-American selection. 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. At the AAU National Championships 13u won a 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 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.

Girls Tryouts

- Sunday Oct 26th at Choctaw HS
 - 11u/12u: 2:00-3:30
 - 13u: 3:30-5:30
 - 14u: 5:30-7:30
- Sunday Nov 2nd 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 via PayPal. If you use a different email from PayPal 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 2 Nov tryout date to have jerseys here by the December tournament. Expect the team store to open on Nov 3rd and close by Sunday Nov 9th to ensure we have uniforms for the first event.
- May combine age groups if needed to form Silver (Regional) teams (17u/16u, 16u/15u, 14u/13u, etc). These teams play the same schedule as Navy but end at Regionals in April.
- New for this season: If we have enough players for Two “National Level” teams in an age group we will have Pink teams (-2 teams that will still play the Navy schedule through AAU Nationals).

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

- Girls teams will begin Sunday Nov 30th. Grassroots will begin in early December. We will take a break during Spring Break and around Christmas this year.
- 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, Destin Middle School, and Lewis Middle School are also probable 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.

Tentative Coaching Plan

- 18U- Andy Faulkner
- 17U- Andy Faulkner w/ Andrew Royal as Asst Coach
- 16U- Harmoni Carswell & Joseph Garcia
- 15U- Challiss Topolski & Ray Lovelace
- 14U- Chelsae Bryant & Tanja Tate
- 13U- Layne Stine & Charlene Haun
- 12U- Lucy Raines
- 11U- Addison Cudney
- Grassroots- TBD
- Director of Defensive/Serve Receive Training- Kayla Stryfeller
- Director of Middle/Pin Position Training- Madilyn Miller (prev Mercer)
- Coach bios are on the website
- Assignments subject to change slightly if necessary based on numbers per age group at tryouts or new hires

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), 11u, and Grassroots end their seasons at regionals in April.
- All teams will attend both the Sunshine National Qualifier and the Big South National Qualifier.
- All our 12u-18u teams play the same tournaments (except when NQs are split over 2 weekends) to help families with siblings on different teams as well as to enable the director and most experienced coaches to assist the other teams and coaches. The goal of for our coaching staff is to work as a team to maximize the success of all teams and athletes.
- 18u is focused on Qualifiers/Recruiting and National Championships. This team is focused on training for those girls planning to continue playing in college and recruiting for those uncommitted seniors and/or juniors. We minimize smaller/regional tournaments to allow seniors more free time for senior activities. There are still a couple of regional events to keep from having long periods without playing.

Tournament Schedule

Sharks 2025-2026 Tournament Schedule						
Date	Event, Location	Stay and Play?	18 NAVY	12u-17u NAVY	12u-17u SILVER	11U
12/13-12/14	Port City Volley Jolley, Mobile, AL	NO		X	X	X
1/3-1/4	Pounder's, Foley AL <i>Note: 11u/18u will do either Pounders or Hall of Fame (not both) depending on which event has better competition as other clubs sign up</i>		X or			X or
1/10-1/11	Hall of Fame, Foley AL	NO	X			X
1/17-1/19	New Orleans Blastoff, NOLA, LA	NO		X	X	
1/24-1/26	Florida Fest Girls 18u National Qualifier (NQ), Orlando FL	YES	X			
2/7-2/8	Bama Brawl, Montgomery, AL (CC and 17 Springs)	NO		X	X	
2/14-2/15	Gulf Coast Classic, Foley (FEC and AGC)	NO				X
2/20-2/22	(18 USA/Open 17-12s) Southeast 18u NQ, Atlanta, GA (GICC)	YES	X			
2/27-3/1	Sunshine NQ, Orlando, FL (OCCC)	YES		X	X	
3/7-3/8	Wavefest, Foley AL (FEC)	NO	X	X	X	X
3/28-3/30	(12A,13A,14A)Big South National Qualifier, Atlanta, GA (GWCC)	YES		X (12N, 13N)	X (12S,13S)	
4/3-4/5	(rest) Big South National Qualifier, Atlanta, GA (GWCC) <i>Note: Apr 5=Easter</i>	YES	X	X (14N-18N)	X (14S-17S)	
4/18-4/19	Foley Volley Fest, Foley, AL	NO		X	X	X
4/25-4/26	Gulf Coast Region Championships, Mobile, AL	NO	X	X	X	X
5/1-5/3	18u USAV National Championships, Reno, NV	YES	X			
5/30-5/31	Summer Splash (w/ Friday night showcase), Foley, AL	NO		X		
estimate 6/13-6/28 (specific dates per age TBD)	AAU National Championships, Orlando, FL	NO	X	X		
6/19-6/22	USAV GJNC Minneapolis, MN 12-13s (IF Qualified)	YES		IF BID		
6/25-6/28 (14-15u) 6/30-7/3 (16-17u)	USAV GJNC 14s-17s Indianapolis, IN (IF Qualified)	YES		IF BID		

- 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.
- National/Navy teams will need to discuss whether they will accept a bid to USAV Nationals prior to GC Regionals. GC Regionals now require everyone competing in the bid division to accept their bids to USAV Nationals (1st-3rd place finishers). If a team doesn't want to commit to go to USAV Nationals and has a decent chance of making the top 4 then we should enter then in the non-bid division. The preference (especially in the 16-17s for recruiting purposes) is to still go to AAU Nationals as well if the dates allow to do both. There will be a slight additional fee to add USAV Nationals to pay for the coach's airfare, hotels, pay. AAU Nationals is already included in fees for all Navy teams.

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 24 with breaks during Spring Break and Christmas week (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 and we’ll post dates as soon as we know them
- T-shirt style jersey included



Cost

- **12u-18u Navy- \$2600**
- **11u- \$1500**
- **All Silver teams- \$2000**
- **Grassroots- \$500**

- Includes all training, coach pay, coach hotels, gym rentals, tournament entry fees, director/club fee, and 2 practice shirts
- Includes HUDL for all teams
- 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
- For new female players, the entire uniform package is approximately \$300. Includes Spandex (2), Jerseys (3), warm-up top, warm-up shorts, padded sleeves, backpack
- 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. Expect female player uniforms to be around \$300.
- Team store for 12u-14u Girls will open on Oct 27th and close on Nov 2nd. The team store will reopen for 15u-18u girls on Nov 3rd and close on Nov 9th. Items will ship directly to players and we are doing two rounds this year to ensure the 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 (typically 15 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. There needs to be a really good reason (approved by club director) if you need to book outside the block.
 - Applies to all Qualifiers- Sunshine/Big South/SEQ/FL Fest/USAV GJNC
- 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.
- AAU Nationals in Orlando is NOT a stay and play so you can book wherever you'd like. This is a major reason we typically 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. Update with links to updated video as season progresses
- Players should email coaches their tournament 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