2027 Season Plan



CAO 19 October 2026

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Sharks History



- Founded in 2013 by Club Director, Andy Faulkner, with one 13u team
  - Longest running club in Niceville/FWB/Destin area- same club, same leadership, different names through the years until we settled on Sharks
  - 45 college signings and counting, 1 National Championship, 4 x Top 3 National finishes, 11 x Top 5 National finishes, 14 AAU/USAV All-American Selections, and 8 Gulf Coast Region Championships.
- 2019 First senior class (from first 13u team) included 8 college signings. We've had 45 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.
- 2026- 18u finished 5th at USAV Nationals w/ 1 All-American and won a Bronze medal for the 2nd straight year at AAU Nationals w/ 2 All-Americans. 17u and 14u both finished 9th at AAU Nationals. Boys 18u finished 5th at AAU Nationals w/ 1 All-American. We finished in the Top 3 in the region in AES in 3 age groups (14u, 17u, 18u) and Top 10 in the region in 2 other (16u, 15u). 9 college signings in the class of 2026.

Girls Tryouts



- Sunday Oct 25th at Choctaw HS
  - 11u/12u: 2:00-4:00
- Thursday Oct 29th at Choctaw HS
  - 13u: 6:00-8:00
- Friday Oct 30th at Choctaw HS
  - 14u: 6:30-8:30
- Sunday Nov 1st at Destin MS
  - 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 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)
- Expect the team store to open shortly after all commitments are received to ensure we have uniforms for the first event.
- New for this season: The plan is to field two “National Level” teams in any age groups that we have enough players for two teams. We will have our Silver teams (-2 teams) play the same schedule as the Navy (-1 teams) and continue through AAU Nationals. Silver will typically play one division lower than Navy (American vs USA, Club vs Power, etc) but still play the same tournaments.

USAV Age definitions

USAVolleyball

USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR PLAYER AGE DEFINITION
For use during the 2026-2027 Season

	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	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Aug	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Sept	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Oct	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Nov	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Dec	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Jan	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Feb	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Mar	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Apr	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
May	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
June	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019

[1]Players who were born on or after July 1, 2007 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, 2008, (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, 2012 OR players who were born on or after July 1, 2011 (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 of 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, 2012 (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, 2013 (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.

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.

2027 Season

Practices

- Girls teams will begin Sunday Nov 29th. Grassroots will begin in early December. We will take a break during Spring Break and around Christmas this year. Please note the Sunshine Qualifier is the first weekend of Okaloosa Spring Break so please don't plan any vacations until after 3/21.

- 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

- 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. All practices are mandatory.

Tentative Head Coaching Plan

- 18U- Andy Faulkner
- 17U- Joseph Perez (Navy) & Andrew Royal (Silver)*
- 16U- Heidi Sheikho (Navy) & Andrew Royal (Silver)*
- 15U- Challiss Topolski (Navy) & Layne Stine (Silver)*
- 14U- Chelsae Bryant (Navy) & Tanja Tate (Silver)*
- 13U- Carly Cooper (Navy) & Kamryn Cook (Silver)*
- 12U- Charlene Haun
- 11U- Lauren Boyter
- Grassroots- TBD
- Director of Defensive/Serve Receive Training- Kayla Stryfeller
- Coach bios are on the website
- * Silver coaches may shift as needed based on which age groups have enough players for multiple teams. The sooner everyone registers for tryouts the sooner I can lock in the coach plan and/or bring in more coaches.

Schedule Philosophy

- Sharks fees includes AAU National Championships and summer season training for all teams 12U and up. Compare with other clubs…
- 11u and Grassroots end their seasons in April.
- Big South is on Easter again this year and back-to-back weekends with Sunshine so we will attend Sunshine instead. 18u will still attend Big South since Sunshine doesn't have an 18u division.
- All our 12u-18u teams play the same tournaments to the max extent possible 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.

2027 Tournament Schedule

	12u-17u National Schedule:
1/16-1/18 (3-day)	New Orleans Blastoff
1/23-1/24 (2-day)	LAV Invitational, Foley (w Prospect ID camp Fri night)
2/13-2/15 (3-day)	Gasparilla, Tampa
2/27-2/28 (2-day)	SVT Cullman Clash, Omniplex Cullman AL
3/19-3/21 (3-day)	Sunshine National Qualifier Orlando
4/3-4/4 (2-day)	AAU Birmingham Super Regional
4/17-4/18 (2-day)	AAU Gator Invitational Gainesville FL Alachua Events center
4/30-5/2 (3-day)	AAU Music City Mayhem, Nashville TN Fairgrounds and Expo Center
6/5-6/6 (2-day)	Summer Splash Foley AL (w College Showcase Fri night)
June (4-day)	AAU Nationals Orlando FL (Wave/Division schedule TBD)
	11u Schedule:
1/9-1/10 (2-day)	Hall of Fame, Foley AL
1/23-1/24 (2-day)	LAV Invitational, Foley AL
2/13-2/14 (2-day)	Gulf Coast Classic, Foley & Gulf Shores AL
3/6-3/7 (2-day)	March Madness, Foley AL
4/3-4/4	AAU Birmingham Super Regional
4/17-4/18 (2-day)	AAU Gator Invitational Gainesville FL Alachua Events center
	18u National Schedule:
1/16-1/18 (3-day)	New Orleans Blastoff
1/29-1/31 (3-day)	Music City 18u NQ, NOLA
2/19-2/21 (3-day)	SEQ 18u NQ GICC Atlanta GA
3/26-3/28 (3-day)	Big South ATL
4/17-4/18 (2-day)	AAU Gator Invitational Gainesville FL Alachua Events center
5/7-5/9 (3-day)	USAV Nationals, Minneapolis MN
6/13-6/16? (4-day)	AAU Nationals Orlando FL

- The NQs and a few other events are stay and play and will require booking in the team block for us to be accepted.
- All 12u-18u teams will attend AAU Nationals instead of USAV. AAU allows us to choose the best divisions for each team's level of play. AAU is not stay and play which allows families to plan ahead and book wherever they want.

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 6 Dec-Apr 23 with breaks during Spring Break and Christmas week (18 weeks/ 36 practices)



- 4 regional “play days”

- Sharks will host at least one play day locally

- 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 National Teams- $2800**
- **11u- $1600**
- **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)
- **Sibling Discount:** 2nd player receives 10% off lowest fees (taken off final payment). Example if one is on 17u and one on 11u the 10% would come off 11u.
- 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. Returning players can re-use jerseys and other items from 2026 to save $
- 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 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 link will be sent out after all commitments are received. Items will ship directly to players.

Hotels

- This year the Director 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. Slack hotel channel already is live with some booking links
- 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- Music City/Sunshine/Big South/SEQ/USAV GJNC as well as Gasparilla
- 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