

Hello club directors,

The Badger Region Board of Directors met Monday, May 10, and modified the Retention Period that is currently being used.

The following language has been added to the current policy: **If a club holds tryouts for non-residents, then that club's retention period could be the 7 days (1 week) preceding the approved tryout date. Only one retention period is allowed per club.**

It is important to note the addition to the current Retention Policy is *only* if a club plans to offer an early tryout for out-of-region athletes. All other clubs must still abide by the Aug. 1-10 Retention Period. Click here for the Out-Of-Region Tryout Policy: <https://badgervolleyball.org/tryoutcommit-policy-dates/>

The fully updated Retention Offer policy states: **Badger Region will allow an optional "Retention Period" Aug. 1-Aug. 10 for clubs to be able to offer a spot in their club for the previous season's players for the coming season. After 7 p.m. CT on Aug. 10, this window closes until the applicable tryout period. However, if a club holds tryouts for non-residents, then that club's retention period could be the 7 days (1 week) preceding the approved tryout date. Only one retention period is allowed per club.**

Rationale: Regions throughout the country are moving their tryouts into summer. Allowing clubs to move their retention period up to get ahead of these border regions' tryout dates will allow Badger Region-based clubs the opportunity to retain their athletes from Wisconsin as well as have tryouts for out-of-state players in an effort to have a better understanding of the club/team makeup at the same time as the neighboring Region.

Will this give a club an unfair advantage by allowing them to open Retention early? No. Since clubs only have access to athletes in their program who played for them last year, this is not going to be a concern. It is not like an athlete from "Club Spikers" can get a Retention Offer from "Club Bumpers" any time of year (July or August). Under the new policy, a club may either use the "early retention period" or the standard Aug. 1-10 retention period. Not both.

The Board of Directors concluded that allowing this modification will help Wisconsin athletes have a better understanding of their options if they are considering trying out for a club that is outside of Wisconsin's borders.

If I were an athlete who was considering playing for an out-of-Region club that has tryouts July 18 (the new date set by the Great Lakes Region for the start of girls tryouts), I would like to know before July 18 if I was getting a retention offer from my club that I played with during the 2020-21 season. If I had to wait until Aug. 1, a potential spot at the out-of-Region club might have been snagged by another athlete, OR I may take an out-of-state offer to guarantee I had a place to play, not knowing if I was going to get a retention offer.

That being said, the Badger Region is having talks at the Board level of moving to a similar summer tryout model like other Regions (including Great Lakes) have moved to. Would this require you or your

club to have tryouts in the summer? No. But clubs and other Regions have seen benefits to this model. There are both positives and negatives to this model. Some positives: Not stressing about club during high school season, not fighting for gym time with school sports, being able to plan for apparel and tournaments longer. But we also understand there are cons such as having to plan earlier, potential summer vacation conflicts for families and, especially for boys, not being able to use the high school season to improve. Many clubs around the country use summer tryouts like we use retention offers, and then have team placement sessions after the high school season.

We highly encourage you to contact your representative on the Badger Region Board of Directors to discuss how this is playing out and how it might impact tryouts for the 2022-23 season (as nothing is being changed for the 2021-22 season, aside from the updated Retention Period, discussed above).

To contact your board member, view the list here: <https://badgervolleyball.org/board-of-directors/>. You may also reach out to any At-Large Board Member about this topic as well.

If you have any questions about the 2021-22 Retention Period, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Please follow up with your board member regarding future tryout policy changes.

Thank you in advance!