



THE BADGER BEACON

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Open houses coming soon

Three open houses are planned for parents and athletes to meet staff and learn about offerings of Badger Region clubs.

The three events are as follows:

* 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, at the Milwaukee Sting Center designed for boys

* 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, at the New Berlin SportsPlex designed for girls

* 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 3, at Pius XI High School (boys high school age only)

On site, there will be anywhere between 10-16 clubs showcasing their offerings for the 2021-22 club volleyball season. In addition, the Badger Region staff will be on site to answer questions about our events, memberships and the upcoming 2021-22 season.

Families are encouraged to use this opportunity to learn about tune-up clinics, the tryout process and the commitment timeline as well as if a club used "retention" during the off season.

The event is paid for thanks to Badger Region Volleyball Association.

For more info., email brian@badgervolleyball.org.



The Badger Region Youth Fall Volleyball League has enjoyed two weekends of competition so far for 205 teams in our high school feeder league. Host locations have included the Milwaukee Sting Center, the New Berlin SportsPlex and the Pleasant Prairie RecPlex. This program has been a training ground for new officials, coaches and athletes. Thanks to all for helping grow the game in the Badger Region at the younger age levels!

Municipalities, facilities, clubs have say in their mask rules

By Badger Region Staff

Will I have to wear a mask while playing, coaching, officiating or attending a Badger Region event this season?

Right now, the answer is: maybe.

It's probably not an answer anyone wants to hear because there is so much uncertainty in that answer.

With the current climate across the state of Wisconsin so varied, the Badger Region Board of Directors has chosen not to implement a region-wide mask mandate for the 2021-22 season at this time.

The story, however, does not end there. There are different ways that masks may be required.

Club directors have the authority to mandate that their members wear masks if that is the direction set by their organization.

A facility director or site director

has the ability to create or enforce a mask mandate if that is the rules at a building being used for a tournament, clinic, camp or training opportunity, and any event held in that building — and all the people who are part of that event — must abide by it or the event risks getting shut down. Individuals may be asked to leave, or be removed, if they are going against the facility or event guidelines, and oftentimes refunds will not be provided.

As we all know, a municipality or local health organization can mandate masks in their community.

Those organizations have the ability to enforce their mask mandates. However, Badger Region does not have the staff, time or resources to monitor every mask at every event on our list of hosted and sanctioned events. We request that people abide by the policies that are outlined for the specific

event or facility, and follow the CDC guidelines regarding masking and vaccination status.

We are watching the case numbers, especially in young children, very closely, and will be in contact with club directors or event participants should something change.

The Badger Region encourages everyone to follow directions provided by the Center for Disease Control including masking for anyone not eligible for a vaccine for COVID-19 or anyone not fully vaccinated — thus the requirement in the Badger Region Youth Fall Volleyball League that all fifth-grade athletes be masked during competition, as this event is specifically for an age group that does not yet have access to a vaccine.

"Not everyone is going to be happy with any answer we give regarding masking," said Jennifer

Armson-Dyer, Executive Director and Commissioner of Badger Region Volleyball. "However, it is our job to provide opportunities for players to participate, coaches to coach and officials to officiate. If there is a COVID-19 outbreak and the events are shut down and people are hospitalized or worse, that is the direct opposite of providing opportunities, and we would hope that all adults understand this, even if they don't like it. We are relying on the personal ethics and morals to keep ALL people safe while at these events, and hope that those unvaccinated individuals wear masks at all times, and no one shows up while sick or having a known exposure to COVID-19."

If you have questions about mask mandates in your area or at events your team will attend this year, contact your program or club director.

Picking a club: Have an open mind, do research

By Josh Price
Badger Region Board Member

Something new and different can be very scary. Even if you are an average, well-adjusted adult.

Now, think about having to embark on a brand-new experience, and being a pre-teen or teenage girl or boy. It is frightening. Maybe even downright terrifying. This becomes a reality for some as they start out their journey into club volleyball. So, what are you to do as a new “club parent” to try and help your child to manage this situation?

At the most recent Club Open House that the Badger Region put together, I was lucky enough to attend and spend some time in the Badger Region booth. We fielded questions from parents and players of all ages and experience levels regarding many different topics. During this time, a couple of things became very clear regarding how people handle and look at club volleyball tryouts, so I wanted to try and help out as much as possible for those who are coming at this for the first time.

FROM A BOARD MEMBER

First thing I would say to everyone would be to have an open mind. There are a lot of things you hear about club volleyball and club sports in general — both positive and negative. Some of them are true, but there are also things that really get blown up and exaggerated. Everyone’s experience is different and if you approach the process with an open mind and are ready to listen and learn, that will go a long way in starting to create a really positive experience for your daughter or son.

Now that you have that open mindset, you will need to create a plan for yourself. Even if you do not know anything about club volleyball, you do know yourself, your family and your child. Put together an outline for yourself about what you might be looking for or interested in. There are a number of components that go into playing a club sport. How much time do you have available? Is your child involved in other activities, sports, school, commu-

nity, church, or otherwise? How long of season do you want to play? How much if any traveling do you want to do with your team? Is the practice time and location important to you? What sort of budget considerations do you have regarding payments for the club fees? These all might change along the way. However, if you are able to put a sketch of what you are looking for together first then the experience for you, your family, and most importantly your child will be a bit more positive.

The next step I would encourage everyone to take would be to spend a bit of time and do some research. Clubs promote their programs in a number of different ways. There is information available on websites and via social media from clubs. Clubs also will have tune ups and open gyms prior to tryouts. This is a great way for people to find out about clubs. Players and parents can get a feel for what a certain club is like in the gym and also ask questions of directors and coaches who will be at these events. The Badger Region website has

information and links to clubs all around the state. The Region also hosts a number of Open Houses in the Fall leading up to tryouts to help clubs get information out to people. This research allows you to find out all sorts of information about clubs, the programs they offer, their facilities, their coaches, their philosophies, rules, uniforms, and apparel, etc.

Finding the right club can be a tough process, and we have not even talked about much in the way of anything on the volleyball court. That part is something as a parent you can help your child prepare for physically and mentally, but this work you can do prior to tryouts is so crucial. If you keep an open mind, plan for yourself of what you are looking for, and then research the club options you have, it can go a long way to try and find the best fit for you and your family. The ultimate goal should be to find the best fit for your daughter or son, and your family. You want to have the best experience possible and make it a positive thing that you come back for year after year.

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FROM A BOARD MEMBER

Looking forward to the 2021-22 season

By **Jim Momsen**
Badger Region President

Hello everyone and Happy Fall 2021 to you all. It's hard to believe that yesterday was the first day of Autumnal Equinox and that we are almost one month into our 2021-2022 USA Volleyball/Badger Region season.

Rather than looking back at the chaotic, and COVID-dominated past 19 months in this article, let's take a look at some of the things that we are considering in Badger Region's future.

The Badger Region Board of Directors met on Sunday, Sept. 19, to finalize our budget for the 2021-2022 season and to plan for programs benefiting our membership - players, coaches, officials, staff, and families.

Among other things, our Badger Region Staff members – Brian Sharkey, Scott Spiess, Kelly Lehman, Sara Voigt and Jen Armson-Dyer — have done an OUTSTANDING job dealing with all of the uncertainties and shifting of requirements due to COVID to provide quality service and programming to our membership.

In addition, they were able to control expenditures to prevent massive losses of capital and resources as events were cancelled and rescheduled. They even managed to successfully implement organizing and getting

Badger Region teams to the All-Star Championships (aka High Performance) with just six-weeks of notice.

The Badger Region Youth Fall Volleyball League (BRYFVL) is off to a great start! There are over 200 teams participating, which is an increase over last Fall's numbers.



Badger Region is again partnering with Cyndi Wood and Merri Oxley (external consultants) to review and update Badger Region's three-year old strategic plan to better fit our current environment. Key areas to be reviewed and considered include: Leadership, Resource Development, Communication, Programs, and Infrastructure. Planned phases are:

Phase 1: United Way Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Challenge for all Board Members, Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis, Needs Assessment, review current Strategic Plan

Phase 2: Continue DEI Challenge, 1-on-1 interviews with Board Membership, "360 degrees of Resource Development" workshops, create Ambassador programs, assist Executive

Director & Board President with succession planning and healthy board transitions.

Phase 3: strategic planning session internally prior to Board of Directors session, creation of reports to be used in decision making, updated dashboard with activities, specific assignments, and timelines.

Badger Region's current financial situation is healthy. We had less of a membership drop than projected (and compared to other USAV Regions).

Coaching Education (Art of Coaching Volleyball, 3C, and other Region Clinics) continue to be a high focus area.

A proposal to raise Officials' Pay for Badger Region marquee events (including Badger Region Championships, Power League, Badger Region Qualifier, and the Dale Rohde Memorial Boys) was passed. These events will also continue to be "mentorship and development opportunities" for officials looking to advance their rating.

In addition, we approved the purchase of new "Spectator Code of Conduct" banners that will be going out to tournament directors once they are received.

So many great things happening here in the state of Wisconsin!

As the article headline states, I'm really looking forward to the 2021-2022 season for all of our Badger Region membership.

USAV Adult Nationals heading to Orlando in 2022

USA Volleyball has selected Orlando, Fla., to host the 2022 USA Volleyball Open National Championship, May 27-June 1, 2022.

The event was last held in Orlando in 2016 with a record number of 578 teams in attendance. USA Volleyball also operates the Sunshine Classic Girls Junior National Qualifier annually in Orlando in early spring.

"USA Volleyball is thrilled to be bringing the USA Volleyball Open National Championship back to Orlando in 2022," said Jamie Davis, USA Volleyball president and CEO. "Visit Orlando, the Greater Orlando Sports Commission, and the Orange County Convention Center always prove to be won-



derful hosts for our athletes, officials, coaches and fans. I am sure that in addition to experiencing the best volleyball has to offer in the United States that our group will thoroughly enjoy their stay in the destination."

USA Volleyball will hold its annual meetings in Orlando ahead of the event and celebrate annual inductees and award honorees at the USA Volleyball Hall of

Fame presented at the Dorothy C. Boyce Banquet on May 25.

"We look forward to welcoming the 2022 USA Volleyball Open National Championship and corporate annual meetings to Orlando in May of next year," said Casandra Matej, president and CEO of Visit Orlando. "Orlando has been successfully and safely hosting in-person group events since reopening over a year ago. From professional sports to youth tournaments, sports tourism has been an important force in our destination's recovery, and we are thrilled that USA Volleyball has selected Orlando for their event next year."

"We are so pleased to welcome our good friends at USA Volleyball back to Orlando for the 2022 Open

National Championship, banquet and corporate meetings in May of 2022. Our community has a long history of hosting premier volleyball events, and we know that our guests and their families will have a tremendous experience while visiting us in Central Florida," said Jason Siegel, president and CEO of the Greater Orlando Sports Commission.

The Orange County Convention Center (OCCC) has hosted more than 100 face-to-face events since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic – July 2020. Most recently, sporting events have dominated the center's spring and summer calendar, welcoming various youth volleyball (including the USA All-Star Championships), basketball and wrestling tournaments.

Region staff here to serve its members, clubs

The Badger Region staff wants to welcome you to the start of the 2021-22 season.

Membership purchases for the new year began on Sept. 1 in Sports Engine, which is now in its second year as our primary member management system.

But membership is only one piece of tasks we tackle in the Badger Region office. Take a few minutes to see what our staff coordinates and contact them directly if you have questions.

Jennifer Armson-Dyer Executive Director/ Commissioner

Contact Jen for with questions or information regarding policies, procedures, rules, SafeSport, grievances and all areas of Region management and operations.

Jen also serves on many national committees established in the RVAA and USAV as well as with the International Volleyball Hall of Fame and Sports Engine.

Brian Sharkey Program Director

Contact Brian for information



on programming opportunities, youth clinics, coaching clinics, community service, scholarships, Badger Boys Series, High Performance, ESP, 3C, open houses, outreach, grass volleyball, adult volleyball and any website or communications-related questions.

Brian is also the Badger Region staff member/liaison to the Try-out Committee. He is the USA Volleyball Junior Assembly Elite Development Chair, a member of working Sports Engine committee, a working official and a high school boys coach.

Scott Spiess Operations Manager

Contact Scott for information regarding membership, insurance, IMPACT, coaching education, coach/club director of the year awards, AVCA partnerships, Art of Coaching memberships and all things related to the Wisconsin Volleyball Conference, of which Scott is an advisory member. He is also a board member for a Badger Region volleyball club and High Performance coach.

Kelly Lehman Tournament Director

Contact Kelly for information regarding Badger Region tournaments, how to register for events, how to run a tournament, questions with Advanced Event Systems (AES) and region events. He coordinates the scheduling of the Badger Region Championships, Qualifier, Dale Rohde Memorial, Power League and Youth Fall Volleyball League. Kelly is also Badger Region club director, WIAA official and USA Volleyball official.

Sara Voigt Program Specialist

Contact Sara if you are looking to officiate or are a returning official looking to advance in your rating. Sara is also the contact for coaches, parents and athletes in the Badger Region Youth Fall Volleyball League, WVC officials, and new officials questions, training and support. Contact Sara with questions about hotels and age waivers. She, too, is a club coach and working USAV official.

Phoenix, Indianapolis, Las Vegas to host national events

USA Volleyball has selected Phoenix and the Phoenix Convention Center to host the 2022 USAV Girls 18s National Championship on April 22-24.

The Girls 18s event is in its sixth year as a stand-alone national championship with the inaugural event taking place in Milwaukee.

The 2022 edition will include two new qualifying divisions that will increase the team count to more than 350 teams.

The Phoenix Convention Center has previously hosted the USAV Boys Junior National Championship and the USAV Open National Championship.

Qualifying events for the Girls 18s National Championship are expected to begin in January and run through March.

In 2021, 266 teams with approximately

3,300 athletes competed at Girls 18s in Columbus, Ohio.

Badger Region clubs who competed in 2021 included FC Elite, MKE Sting, Motion Volleyball Program, Midwest Penguins, One Wisconsin, Milwaukee Juniors, 414 Milwaukee Elite and Revolution Volleyball Academy.

Indy also hosting

The 42nd annual edition of the GJNC, for players ages 11-17, will be a 12-day event held at the Indianapolis Convention Center.

"USA Volleyball is excited to bring the Girls Junior National Championship back to Indianapolis in 2022," said USAV Events Director Kristy Cox. "Indy has proven to be a great host and partner for this event."

The bump to 12 days (currently the event takes 10 days) will allow for more space in the convention center as the number of teams competing grows. USAV is expecting more

than 1,600 teams in Indy with next year's growth and the introduction of two new divisions.

Indianapolis previously hosted the GJNC in 2016 and 2019.

The GJNC economic impact on the host city can be significant. The 2021 GJNC is held in Las Vegas had more than 1,300 teams registered.

Boys headed to Las Vegas

The Boys Junior National Championships will be held in Las Vegas in late June/early July in 2022. No formal announcement is available yet as USA Volleyball is still working on exact dates and signing contracts with the hotels and facilities.

When more information is available regarding the BJNCs, the Badger Region will update its website as well as share new on social media.



Brookfield athlete competes on Team USA

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The U.S. Girls U18 National Team will begin its defense of its 2019 FIVB World Championship title on Tuesday in Durango, Mexico.

Twenty teams will compete in Durango on Sept. 20-29. They will be split into four five-team pools to open the tournament. The U.S. will share the Pool C with Romania, Nigeria, Thailand and Puerto Rico.

“Some of these teams, Team USA included, did not get the chance to compete last year due to COVID,” U.S. Head Coach Jamie Morrison said. “Each team will be a new puzzle that needs to be solved. Some teams here have been training together for months and some for years. For that reason, the U.S. is always a bit of an underdog at this competition.”

Brookfield Central High School senior and Milwaukee Sting outside hitter McKenna Wucherer is among the athletes playing in Mexico this week on the U18 team.

Twelve players, selected after a tryout in July and August, will compete for the U.S. in Mexico. The team reconvened in Anaheim on Sept. 16 to train twice a day until leaving for Mexico.

“There is no doubt this group of 12 amazing young women will give everything they have, battle any team at this tournament and make everyone in the United States proud,” Morrison said. “In July, we spent six days instilling the values of our senior Women’s National Team and teaching them to play like the women that won a gold medal in Tokyo.”



Team starts with wins over Thailand, Romania

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (Sept. 21, 2021) – The U.S. Girls U18 National Team beat Romania on Wednesday, 3-1 (25-21, 25-11, 18-25, 25-16) at the FIVB U18 World Championship in Durango, Mexico.

“Romania played better in the set we lost,” U.S. Head Coach Jamie Morrison said. “Their serve-receive picked up and that made the match even. I believe on our side we got sloppy, and we lost energy because of it.”

The U.S. led in kills (49-36), blocks (11-8) and aces (7-6). The U.S. hitting efficiency was .398 behind starting setter Alexis Stucky and substitute Bergen Reilly. Romania hit .278.

Outside hitter McKenna Wucherer scored nine points on eight kills and one block. Stucky finished with four points on two kills, one block and one ace. Backup outside hitter Julia Blyashov scored three points on three kills.

Vs. Thailand

The U.S. Girls U18 National Team got its journey at the FIVB World Championship off to a strong

start with a 3-0 (25-18, 25-20, 25-23) win over Thailand on Tuesday in Durango, Mexico.

Although Thailand challenged them, especially in the third set when it held a two-point lead much of the time, the U.S. Girls put together a strong match, leading in kills (43-30), blocks (7-4) and aces (7-2). Thailand scored 25 points on U.S. errors. Thailand committed 18 scoring errors.

“Thailand plays with a different spirit than any other team in the world,” U.S. Head Coach Jamie Morrison said. “I’ve always enjoyed playing against them at any level and it was a great opportunity for the girls to see that.”

“I think our patience was really good in getting used to their velocity and their attacking at different angles,” Middle blocker and Team Captain Bekka Allick said.

Wucherer led all scorers with 16 points on a match-high 14 kills and two aces. Middle Maggie Mendelson added 13 points on 11 kills and two blocks. Allick totaled 10 points on seven kills, two blocks and one ace.

For links to livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/c/volleyballworld/videos>

Youth clinics return in conjunction with NCAA matches

The Badger Region is looking forward to partnering with colleges and universities in Wisconsin to host a handful of clinics this fall and spring in conjunction with NCAA matches.

Our first is set for Wednesday, Oct. 6, at the

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

To register, click here: <https://bit.ly/3lqxBDc>

Another clinic is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 9, at St. Norbert College. Registration for this event will open soon.

All of these events require a Badger Region membership (a one-event or full junior membership is all that is needed).

Have questions? Email brian@badgervolleyball.org.

Badger Region Volleyball Association

UPDATED: AUG. 26, 2021

TRYOUTS: BEST PRACTICES

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The Badger Region receives numerous calls and emails from athletes, parents and clubs about what can be done to improve the tryout process. While the Region cannot mandate most of what is listed below, the Region's Board of Directors and the Region Staff recommend the following as best practices:

Before tryouts

- 1. Retention Period**
 - a. Communicate with the Badger Region office if your club plans to utilize the Retention Period via the pre-tryout survey that will be sent out.
 - b. Make offers Aug. 1-10, 2021, to athletes who played for your club during the 2020-21 club season. Make sure all paperwork is signed and filed and held by the club director until needed at a later time. (<http://badgervolleyball.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Retention-Document-for-Clubs-2019-20.pdf>)
 - c. Publicize on your website, social media, tryout flyers, etc., whether your club made Region Period offers
 - d. Publicize on your website, social media, tryout flyers, etc., if only limited spots are available in your club for the 2020-21 club season



- 2. Communication**
 - a. Communicate with nearby clubs, or clubs who draw from the same pool of athletes, on dates/times to host tryouts. This will prevent athletes and families from having to pick one or the other when it comes to the first tryouts.
 - b. Communicate your 2020-21 tryout times, dates and location to current/former families and the general public. (You can't do this enough.)
 - c. Communicate open houses, tune-up clinics or other pre-season club events to current/former families and the general public.
 - d. Communicate upcoming deadlines (pre-registration deadlines, commitment deadlines, other club-specific deadlines such as when a determination will be made if a team is going to "fold" or when first payments and contracts are due).



SPOTS IN YOUR PROGRAM BEFORE THE TRYOUT PERIOD BEGINS.

OR PROMISE PLAYERS

- 3. Other**
 - a. Examine the Badger Region's "delinquent payment" list maintained at the Region office.
 - b. Be realistic. Seriously look at how many teams you can field (based on number of coaches available, gym time available, athletes in your area, other clubs in your area).
 - c. As you consider the number of teams you can field, have a tentative plan for how many teams you expect to offer at each age division as well as your club philosophy on moving players to older age divisions if a player's skill level warrants or if needed to fill teams. Consider the trickle-down effect of moving players to older age groups and your club's subsequent ability to field teams at younger age levels.
 - d. The Region recommends a pre-registration process to make sure all payment, paperwork, payments and membership card numbers are filed before arriving on site.
 - e. Review all other Badger Region policies, procedures and dates as it pertains to tryouts.

During tryouts

- 1. Paperwork**
 - a. Make sure all players have a membership, medical release form and concussion form
 - b. Ask all athletes if they have accepted a Retention Offer to another club. If they have and show a club listed in their membership account, you might want to ask that athlete to kindly not participate in the tryout.
 - c. Do birth date checks on all athletes. Make sure that each athlete is trying out for the proper age level. Remember: Not all age waivers are granted. And under certain circumstances (teams who participate in Qualifiers/Nationals/Out-of-Region events), no age waivers are allowed.
 - d. Collect other payment and club-specific paperwork. State if tryout fees can be refunded.



- 2. While on the court**
 - a. Coaches and directors should go into tryouts with an open mind.

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Badger Region Volleyball Association

UPDATED: JUNE 1, 2020

TRYOUTS: BEST PRACTICES

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- b. Give each athlete who walks through the door a fair shot. And put them in positions that will give them the best chance to succeed (i.e. Put the 4-foot-6 athlete in more passing drills than blocking drills).
- c. Come with a plan. Hitting lines or kings/queens of the court for two hours is not a good plan.
- d. Have a group of coaches running the drills/tryout plan and a different group of coaches evaluating. The two groups should chat on a regular basis throughout the tryout.
- e. Be discrete when talking with other evaluators and/or coaches about the athletes, and/or have a place where you can discuss that is not within earshot of participants.
- f. Take lots of notes. Rate them according to a scale that all directors and coaches in your club can use and understand. Athletes (and parents) want feedback as to why they didn't make a team.



- 3. Making offers and beyond**
 - a. Communicate with all athletes whether they are getting an offer, if they are in line to get an offer, or if they are not getting an offer.
 - b. Remind athletes about the Badger Region Commitment Deadline (7 p.m. Monday after the start of the tryout period)
 - c. Explain your club's trickle-down process
 - d. Remind athletes how to make a commitment to a club in the member management system that will be discussed more at a later time.
 - e. Remind all athletes that if they pick a different club, it is OK. Tell them to let your club know right away so athletes in line for an offer will be able to get a spot sooner rather than later.

After tryouts

- 1. Filling teams**
 - a. Have a deadline of when your club will determine if a team will fold or come to fruition
 - b. Have a plan in place if you get lots of athletes at one gender/age level and not a lot at another.
 - c. Utilize the Badger Region website page dedicated to players looks for teams.
 - d. Advertise on the Badger Region site if you have a team looking for players
 - e. Contact nearby clubs to see if they have similar situation, and work together to combine those two small groups of athletes into one team at one of the clubs.
 - f. Announce on your website/social media when a team is filled and that no more offers will be going out for that specific team
 - g. Alert athletes on the "waiting list" for that team that no more offers will be made

- 2. Finalizing your roster**
 - a. Make sure your "committed" athletes have selected your club in the member management system. It is not official until this is done.
 - b. Make sure (again) that they meet the age requirements for this age group.
 - c. Make sure all paperwork is in for this athlete



- 3. Looking ahead**
 - a. Take notes on what worked and what did not.
 - b. Offer refunds where applicable in a timely manner.
 - c. Update online listing where applicable.
 - d. Shred any paperwork from athletes not needed for the upcoming season

CONTACT THE BADGER REGION

General Information	General questions	membership@badgervolleyball.org	262-349-9785
Jennifer Armon-Dyer Executive Director	jarmsondyer@badgervolleyball.org		414-507-1124
Brian Sharkey Program Director	brian@badgervolleyball.org		414-313-9055
Scott Spiess Operations Manager	scott@badgervolleyball.org		414-303-5624
Kelly Lehman Tournament Director	kelly@badgervolleyball.org		262-470-0837
Sara Voigt Program Specialist	sara@badgervolleyball.org		262-349-9785

Tryout details released for 2021-22 season

Region shares 'Best Practices,' 'Retention Period' details with club directors, families

As we are now officially in summer, we wanted to share some updated information in regards to tryouts for the 2021-22 club season. We will highlight a few changes (from USAV), identify first allowable dates for retention offers and tryouts, and share some "best practices" for you to consider when planning.

*** Retention Offers** — The Badger Region once again offered a retention period of 10 days from Aug. 1 - Aug. 10. The use of retention offers was optional and at the discretion of each individual club. If issuing retention offers, the use of the retention period agreement form is required.

*** 2021-22 Tryout/Commitment Dates:**
— **14-and-under boys and girls (born July 1, 2007, and after)**

* First available date clubs can hold try-

outs: Oct. 2, 2021

* A player (regardless of whether they played for a club in the 2020-21 season) will not be required to commit to a club until 7 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 4.

* All offers made after 7:01 p.m. Oct. 4 are at the discretion of the club
— **15-and-older boys and girls (born June 30, 2007 and before)**

* First available date for tryouts: Nov. 13, 2021

* A player (regardless of whether they played for a club in the 2020-21 season) will not be required to commit to a club until 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 15.

* All offers made after 7:01 p.m. Nov. 15 are at the discretion of the club

*** Best Practices for Tryouts** - The Badger Region has compiled a list of Best Practices to be utilized before, during, and after tryouts. These will also be shared on our website, in our newsletter, and on social media.

We have asked club directors, coaches,

athletes and families to familiarize themselves with these Best Practices. The Best Practices were created by the Region's tryout committee consisting of region coaches, club directors, board members, and region staff.

Clubs will invite athletes to join their clubs via Sports Engine, just like they did for the 2020 season.

Parents and athletes should make sure that they have given their potential clubs the accurate email address and athlete information that corresponds to what is registered in Sports Engine.

All policies, dates, and supporting information will be posted to our website. The Badger Region recognizes that with the time missed this season and the unknown of what fall will bring, there may be some concerns and challenges related to tryouts.

Have questions? Email membership@badgervolleyball.org or call 262-349-9785.

BADGER REGION WANTS YOUR FEEDBACK

TRYOUTS

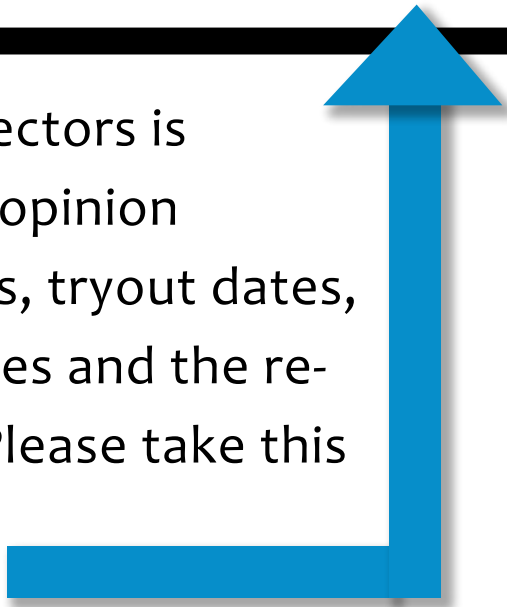


SURVEY



BADGER
REGION VOLLEYBALL

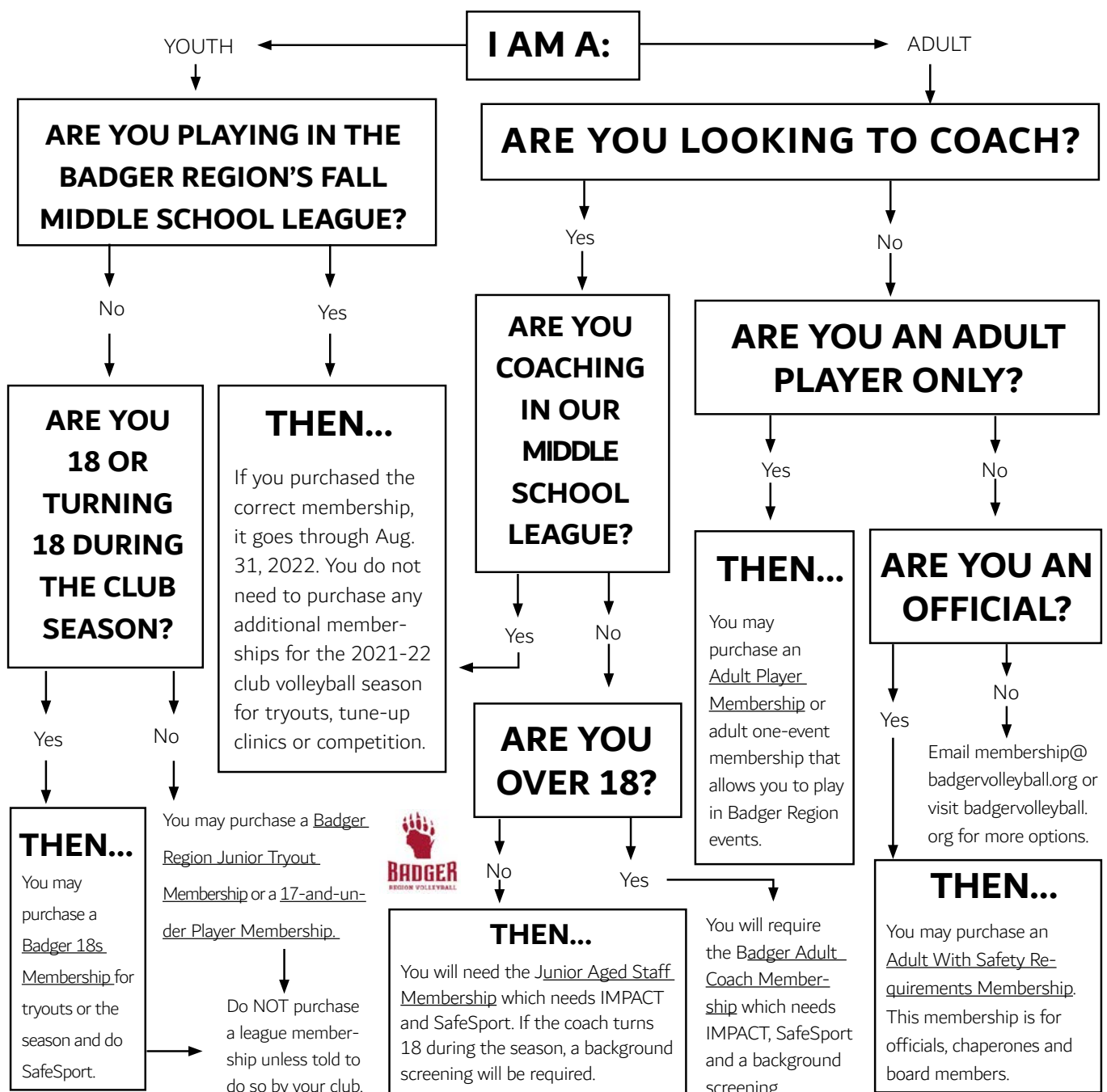
Our board of directors is looking for your opinion on tryout policies, tryout dates, commitment dates and the retention period. Please take this two-minute survey to help make the Badger Region better for all of its members and families. Questions? Email brian@badgervolleyball.org.



<https://badgervolleyball.org/tryout-survey/>

MEMBERSHIPS, ANYONE?

Sorting through the list of available memberships in the Badger Region can be a bit confusing based on what time of year it is and whether or not an athlete has participated during the previous club volleyball season. To help navigate selecting a junior membership, use our “Choose Your Own Adventure” below and we’ll make sure you get the membership you need. If you ever have questions about which membership is right for a junior athlete, coach, club director or adult player, email membership@badgervolleyball.org or call 262-349-9785.





GIRLS JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

USAV RESTRUCTURES GJNCS FOR 2022

NEW DIVISIONS ADDED TO CURRENT HIERARCHY; QUALIFICATION EXPLAINED

11 NATIONAL 🐾 48	16 OPEN 36	<p>QUALIFY THROUGH BOTH REGIONS AND NATIONAL QUALIFIERS</p> <p>QUALIFY THROUGH NATIONAL QUALIFIERS ONLY</p> <p>QUALIFY THROUGH REGION ONLY</p> <p>NON-QUALIFYING DIVISION</p>
12 NATIONAL 🐾 48	16 NATIONAL 🐾 48	
12 USA 24	16 USA 36	
12 AMERICAN 🐾 64	16 LIBERTY 24	
13 OPEN 24	16 AMERICAN 🐾 64	
13 NATIONAL 🐾 48	16 FREEDOM 🐾 48	
13 USA 36	16 PATRIOT 48	
13 LIBERTY 24	17 OPEN 36	
13 AMERICAN 🐾 64	17 NATIONAL 🐾 48	
13 PATRIOT 48	17 USA 36	
14 OPEN 36	17 LIBERTY 24	
14 NATIONAL 🐾 48	17 AMERICAN 🐾 64	
14 USA 36	17 FREEDOM 🐾 48	
14 LIBERTY 24	17 PATRIOT 48	
14 AMERICAN 🐾 64	18 OPEN 48	
14 FREEDOM 🐾 48	18 NATIONAL 🐾 48	
14 PATRIOT 48	18 USA 48	
15 OPEN 36	18 LIBERTY 32	
15 NATIONAL 🐾 48	18 AMERICAN 🐾 64	
15 USA 36	18 FREEDOM 🐾 48	
15 LIBERTY 24	18 PATRIOT 64	
15 AMERICAN 🐾 64		
15 FREEDOM 🐾 48		
15 PATRIOT 48		

For 2022, USA Volleyball has added the USA division to the 12s division as well as the Liberty division to ages 13-18 and the Freedom division to 14-18s.

The Liberty division will be a Qualifier-only division with 2 bids each if the threshold minimum numbers are met. The Freedom division – will be a Region-only division with 1-2 bids awarded depending on Region size (same as National division)

Maximum field size is listed to the right of each division.



USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR PLAYER AGE DEFINITION For use during the 2021-2022 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	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Aug	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Sept	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Oct	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Nov	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Dec	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Jan	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Feb	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Mar	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Apr	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
May	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
June	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014

¹ Players who were born on or after July 1, 2003 OR players who were born on or after July 1, 2002 and a high school student in the twelfth (12th) grade or below during some part of the current academic year.

² **Female Only** - Players who were born on or after July 1, 2003, (who are defined as 18 & under by the USAV Age Definition) and are in the 11th grade for the current academic year are waived to compete in 17 & under. (This age waiver 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, 2007 OR players who were born on or after July 1, 2006 (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, 2007 (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, 2008 (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.



FINISHED

Coaches are
parents and volunteers

*** The officials are
new or in training

Many of the athletes ***
are new to volleyball

*** This is a learning
environment



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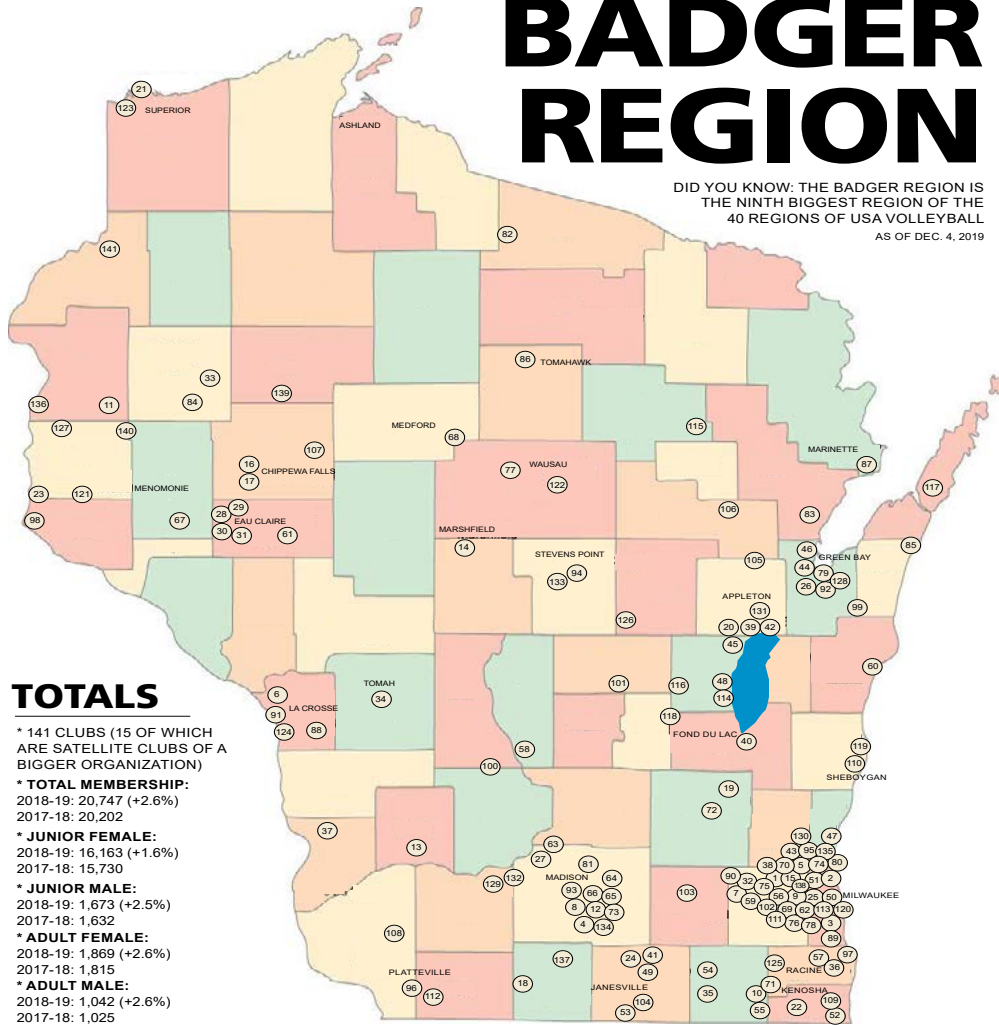
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BADGER REGION

DID YOU KNOW: THE BADGER REGION IS THE NINTH BIGGEST REGION OF THE 40 REGIONS OF USA VOLLEYBALL AS OF DEC. 4, 2019



TOTALS

- * 141 CLUBS (15 OF WHICH ARE SATELLITE CLUBS OF A BIGGER ORGANIZATION)
- * **TOTAL MEMBERSHIP:**
2018-19: 20,747 (+2.6%)
2017-18: 20,202
- * **JUNIOR FEMALE:**
2018-19: 16,163 (+1.6%)
2017-18: 15,730
- * **JUNIOR MALE:**
2018-19: 1,673 (+2.5%)
2017-18: 1,632
- * **ADULT FEMALE:**
2018-19: 1,869 (+2.6%)
2017-18: 1,815
- * **ADULT MALE:**
2018-19: 1,042 (+2.6%)
2017-18: 1,025

FOR LINKS TO ALL CLUBS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG

Get your jersey questions answered

The Badger Region Volleyball Association wants to make sure your team's jerseys are compliant with all rule sets and changes that have gone into effect starting in the 2020-21 season regarding uniforms.

To do so, the Region's Ref Chair is encouraging club directors or coaches to upload images to this link (below) if there is any concern that numbers are not contrasting enough with the dominant color of the jersey or if a jersey is not contrasting for libero purposes.

UPLOAD HERE: <http://badger-volleyball.org/jerseys/>

Reminder: All numbers must clearly contrast with the color of the jersey, regardless of the color of the outline of the number.

Have questions? Email badgerref-chair@yahoo.com.

Buy through Amazon Smile and support Badger Region

Do you shop on Amazon? Do you want to support the growth of volleyball in the state of Wisconsin?

Then you need to make your purchases on the popular online shopping website via the Badger Region Charity Link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1802573>

When you purchase through the link listed above, a percent of your purchase comes back to the Badger Region Volleyball Association each month.



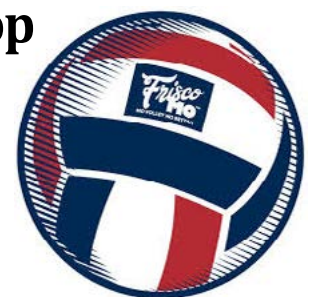
Badger Region, Frisco Mo partner for unique Wisconsin-themed volleyball shop

How do I get fun, Badger Region apparel all year round? Now you can thanks to a recent partnership between the Badger Region and Frisco Mo.

The online-only shop offers everything from pillows and posters to stickers and mugs to the more traditional hoodies and t-shirts.

A permanent link to the store now sits on www.badgervolleyball.org.

A portion of the proceeds benefits future Badger Region programming in the state of Wisconsin. For a link to the shop, click here.



Badger Region Volleyball Association

2831 N. Grandview Blvd.
Suite 105
Pewaukee, WI 53072

Staff

Jennifer Armson-Dyer
Executive Director/
Commissioner
jen@badgervolleyball.org
414-507-1124

Brian Sharkey
Program Director
brian@badgervolleyball.org
414-313-9055 (cell)
262-349-9785 (office)

Scott Spiess
Operations Manager
scott@badgervolleyball.org
414-303-5624 (cell)
262-349-9785 (office)

Kelly Lehman
Tournament Director
kelly@badgervolleyball.org
262-470-0837

Sara Voigt
Program Specialist
sara@badgervolleyball.org
262-349-9785 (office)

Fax: 262-349-9971

The Badger Region Volleyball Association promotes initiatives for safe, structured and fun life-long volleyball experiences!

If you (or you or your organization) would like to advertise in a future Badger Beacon, contact Brian Sharkey at the phone number or email address above.

More online:

www.badgervolleyball.org

Twitter: @BadgerRegionVB

Facebook:

Badger Region Volleyball

Pinterest: BadgerRegionVol

Instagram: BadgerRegionVB

Badger Region Volleyball Association

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



The Sept. 12 open house at the Milwaukee Sting Center was a huge success that we have three more on the horizon.

Sept. 26: Badger Region Club Volleyball Open House at the New Berlin SportsPlex. Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Oct. 2: Tryouts may begin for all Badger Region athletes 14-and-under.

Nov. 3: Badger Region Boys Volleyball Open house from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Pius XI High School in Wauwatosa.

Nov. 13: Tryouts may begin for all Badger Region athletes 15-and-older.

Jan. 8-9: First weekend of the Badger Region Power League (Sites TBA)

Feb. 12-13: Second weekend of the Badger Region Power League (Sites TBA)

Feb. 26-27: Badger Region Girls Qualifier at the Milwaukee Sting Center.

March 19-20: Badger Region Championships for Girls 16s, Girls 17s, Girls 18s at the Wisconsin Center (ages subject to change)

March 19 or 20: Dale Rohde Memorial Boys Volleyball Tournament at the Wisconsin Center

March 26-27: Badger Region Championships for Girls 11s, Girls 12s, Girls 13s and Girls 14s at the Wisconsin Center (ages subject to change)

April 2-3: Badger Region Championships for Girls 15s, All Boys and All Adult Divisions at the Wisconsin Center. (ages subject to change)

April 9-10: Final weekend of the Badger Region Power League (Sites TBA)

April 22-24: USA Volleyball Girls 18s Junior National Championships in Phoenix.

May 27-June 1: USA Volleyball Adult Open Nationals in Orlando, Fla.

June 23-July 4: USA Volleyball Girls Junior National Championships in Indianapolis

June 30-July 7: USA Volleyball Boys Junior National Championships in Las Vegas

Have a great story idea or person you want featured in the Badger Beacon?
Email Brian Sharkey at brian@badgervolleyball.org.

How is the Badger Region Board structured?

The Badger Region Volleyball Association is governed by a Board of Directors that must be elected by members on a regular basis. Area reps serve three-year terms, while members of the executive board serve four-year terms.

Members, whether they are players, coaches, parents, directors, athletic trainers or officials, are encouraged to communicate with their respective representative if they

think policies or financial decision in the Region need to be changed.

Some policies enforced by Badger Region come from USA Volleyball, our sport's national governing body, so those can't be changed. But many others can.

The Board is advised by a 11 chairpersons (or experts) in various parts of the game, and five staff members (some of which have multiple responsibilities).

The state is divided into five parts geographically for representation. Plus, there are two at-large board members who you can approach if you don't feel comfortable with your current rep. And there is a rep dedicated just to issues that surround our Junior volleyball clubs and athletes.

You'll be hearing from each Board member twice a year in the form of a column in the Badger Beacon. Now, let's meet them:

Jim Momsen
(President)
Elected in 2020
Email: jkmomsen@yahoo.com

Scott Blackmon
(Vice President)
Elected in 2019
Email: Scottblackmon@gmail.com

TBA
(Treasurer)
Elected in TBA
Email: TBA

Kim Wudi
(Secretary)
Elected in 2021
Email: wudikm@uwec.edu

Breit Nelson
(Northwest Rep)
Elected in 2021
Email address:
Spikeitdown@hotmail.com

Todd Mattes
(Northeast Rep)
Elected in 2019
Email: todd.mattes@nivbc.com

Mark Rushton
(Southwest Rep)
Elected in 2021
Email address:
mark.rushton@cvamadison.net

Holly Jablonowski
(Southeast Rep)
Elected in 2019
Email: hvogelsang15@gmail.com

Curtis Madson
(Metro Milwaukee Rep)
Elected in 2020
Email: Curtis.Madson@cuw.edu

Susan Peterson
(At-Large Rep)
Elected in 2020
Email: susanpeterson2005@gmail.com

Josh Price
(At-Large Rep)
Elected in 2021
Email: wijrs.josh.price@gmail.com

Brian Rushmer
(Junior Rep)
Elected in 2020
Email: brushmer@gmail.com

Angie Lubach
(Independent Rep)
Appointed in 2015
Email: Angela.lubach@yahoo.com

Individual chairs and advisors who offer input to the Board of Directors but don't have authority to vote at meetings:

Financial Chair: Anne Slattery
Grassroots Chair: Lexi Middleton
Officials Rating/Training: Teague Prichard
Junior Girls Chair: Heather Curley
Junior Boys Chair: Damien Evans
Adult Chair: TJ Abshire
Past President: Julie Voeck

REGION STAFF

Executive Director/Commissioner: Jennifer Armson-Dyer
Program Director: Brian Sharkey
Operations Manager: Scott Spiess
Tournament Director: Kelly Lehman
Program Specialist: Sara Voigt

Elections for the Badger Region Board of Directors occur. Nominations take place in April and the election is for adult members May 1-10.

2021/2022 TRYOUTS OPENINGS BY AGE/TEAM

11-1

12 OPEN

12-1

12 OPEN

13-1

3 OPEN

14-1

12 OPEN

15-1

9 OPEN

16-1

8 OPEN

16-2

6 OPEN

17-1

6 OPEN

18-1

12 OPEN

14 & UNDER - OCTOBER 2,3,5
15 & OVER - NOVEMBER 13,14,16



**Keep up to date on all things
volleyball via the many
channels of the Badger Region**

f Facebook: /BadgerRegionVolleyball

Website: www.badgervolleyball.org

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BADGER REGION VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION ~ SPECIAL EDITION, SEPT. 20, 2021

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

WWW.BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG ~ MEMBERSHIP@BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG



Parents and athletes talk to potential clubs at a girls club volleyball open house in September of 2021.

The club volleyball open houses held in September through November of each year are some of my favorite events on the Badger Region calendar.

The goal of these events is to educate families and athletes about the many opportunities their Badger Region membership allows them to participate in. Another is to see the excitement these athletes have when they walk in the door and see old friends and meet their potential coaches or club directors for the first time.

On top of that, it's always great to see the camaraderie between coaches and club directors who join us at these gatherings. While they may be



The boys open house at Pius High School draw hundreds of boys and their families each year.

bitter rivals on the court or coach at rival clubs, most are actually good friends when their differences are put aside.

Last year, these in-person events were canceled. But they are back in full force for the 2021-22 season.

Some have already taken place, but

two more are set for Sept. 26 in the Milwaukee and another is set for Nov. 3 for high-school age boys.

But we didn't want to leave out any clubs or families that didn't feel comfortable attending in person or who weren't able to make it due to conflicts on their person calendars.

While viewers won't be able to ask questions with us face to face, we encourage you to skim the profiles of the clubs who submitted information and contact them if you need anything else.

It's the best of both worlds: In person open houses and a virtual open house.

~ Brian Sharkey

Badger Region Program Director

Questions that we asked clubs that you will see in this Virtual Open House include:

- * Club name
- * Director name
- * Contact information
- * Location of practice facilities
- * What teams they intend to offer in the 2021-22 season
- * An outline of pricing options
- * Website/social media handles
- * A link to a video that they created highlighting

their club

- * What makes your club unique in your market?
- * What are you most proud of when telling others about your club?
- * What are your club's coaching philosophies or pillars of athlete development?
- * Anything else you would like to share about your club?

Not all of the participants answered every question, but you get the idea. Now "turn the page" and enjoy our virtual open house.



Visitors stop by the Badger Region table at boys club volleyball open house at Pius High School in early November of 2019.

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