



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, 2022, 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 2022-23 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).



e. DO NOT MAKE OFFERS OR PROMISE PLAYERS

SPOTS IN YOUR PROGRAM BEFORE THE TRYOUT PERIOD BEGINS.

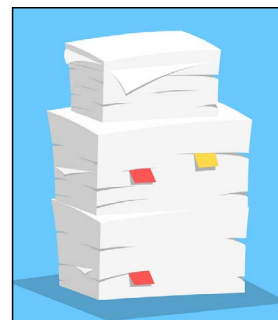
3. Other

- 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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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

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