



FAQS: Scorpions Youth Volleyball Club for the 2023-24 Season

Q. Where is the Scorpions Youth Volleyball Club Inc. located?

A. Scorpions YVBC Inc. is based out of Cambridge, with practices taking place at school gym locations throughout Cambridge.

Q. How long is the season?

A. The club volleyball season starts with the tryouts starting on September 10, 2023. Practices start when gyms become available, late September/early October. The regular season within the OVA (Ontario Volleyball Association) starts in November and ends with Provincials, typically in April. Some teams choose to continue the season, with participation in the Nationals, run by Volleyball Canada in May or by participating in tournaments in the U.S.A. The volleyball season in the U.S. both starts and ends later than that in Canada.

Q. What age groups do you support for competitive/select teams?

A. For GIRLS, it is our intention to offer 11/12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 age groups that play in the OVA.

We are also hoping to offer Select girls teams for 13-16 age groups.

B. For BOYS, it is our intention to offer 13/14, 15, 16 and 17 teams for the 2023-24 season.

The number of teams we are able to offer depends upon the quantity and quality of athletes and coaches for each age group.

Q. When and where are tryouts?

Tryouts take place starting September 10th for the girls and boys OVA teams.

Check our website <http://www.scorpionsvolleyball.ca> for details.

Q. What is the cost of trying out?

A. There is no cost to tryout. We are encouraging everyone to bring donations to the foodbank.

Q. Do I have to be at every tryout?

A. It is to your advantage to be at every tryout so you have the greatest opportunity to demonstrate your skills to our coaches. If you must miss a tryout, let the age appropriate coach know as soon as possible so they do not misinterpret your absence as a lack of commitment or interest.

Q. What do I need to bring to tryouts?

A. Volleyball gear (indoor shoes, knee pads, ankle braces (if any), athletic tape, etc.) and water. No club identifying sportswear to be worn.

Q. If I make the team, how much would I have to pay in fees?

A. As our club operates on a break even basis, club fees are directly affected by the number of teams and athletes, as well as the number of tournaments a team is scheduled to enter during the season. However, in an effort to provide you with some direction, club fees have been set as follows:

11/12 age groups - range of \$300-\$500 per athlete depending on # of players

13 - 15 age groups - range of \$1000 to \$1300 per athlete depending on # of players

16-18 age groups - range of \$1300 to \$1600 per athlete depending on # of players

There will be a jersey fitting day on Sunday October 1, 2023 at Heritage College. All athletes will be invoiced by the club once rostered. There are programs available that provide financial assistance for youth demonstrating financial need, please visit our website for the links. If you require assistance with fees, please contact the club at president@scorpionsvolleyball.ca

Club fees cover the following:

1. Costs of registering Scorpions YVBC Inc. coaches with the OVA
2. Coaching honorariums
3. Administration fees
4. Team equipment and gym rentals
5. OVA tournament registration fees, own age group Provincial tournament fees
6. Uniform consisting of: 1 or 2 team jerseys

Club fees do not cover the following:

- an athlete's OVA MRS registration fee
- an athlete's travel costs (hotel, food, transportation)
- an athlete's share of coaches' travel costs (not covered by the club)

- Additional tournaments as decided by the coach and team, such as playing in older age groups, invitational tournaments, US tournaments, or Nationals.
- Other team activities and events not listed above

Select Team Cost: Range per athlete is approximately \$350

Fees cover the following:

1. Cost of Coaching honorariums
2. Team equipment and gym rentals
3. Uniform Package

*Tournament costs are not covered in fees. Tournament costs per player are typically \$20 per athlete per tournament.

Q. How many out-of-town OVA tournaments will there be?

A. The number of out-of-town tournaments within the OVA schedule is unpredictable at the beginning of the year. Based in Cambridge, we are fortunate to have many out-of-town locations accessible as day trips. If a team is required to travel out-of-town overnight (e.g. Windsor), the location generally allows for arriving Friday/Saturday and traveling home after the tournament on Saturday/Sunday. The age group of a team and its ranking within the province can affect the potential for an overnight tournament. 14+ teams are divided into tiers based upon their team's ranking. Each tier plays at a different location.

The OVA tries to establish tournament locations sensitive to the makeup of the teams in a tier. If a team is in an older age group and in the top "Premier" tier, then this tier is composed of the top 8 to 12 teams from across the province. Therefore, there is a higher possibility of an out-of-town overnight tournament since participating teams may be from across the province. That said, there are exceptions depending upon the number and location of clubs willing to host an OVA tournament. In summary, the number of out-of-town OVA tournaments is unpredictable and will vary per team during the season.

Q. How many Southwest Tournaments are there for Select teams?

A. There are an average of 6 one day tournaments all within 1 hour drive of Cambridge. Cost per tournament is around \$20.00 per player.

Q. Do Club fees cover the registration cost of out-of-town tournaments?

A. Club fees cover the registration fees for OVA tournaments and a limited number of non-OVA tournaments, as set out in the team's budget. Registration fees for any additional tournaments (OVA or non-OVA) are the responsibility of the athletes. Participation in any additional tournaments is decided upon and managed by teams individually.

Q. When are practices?

A. Teams practice two to three times per week, as determined by each team's coach. Practice times and locations are e-mailed to the players by the head coach, once the team has been

selected. Practice dates, times and locations may change from time to time as school gyms may not be available certain evenings due to school events or school breaks or teams may have an extra practice as recommended by coach or for other unforeseen reasons. Any changes to individual team practices are e-mailed to the players.

Q. When and where are tournaments?

A. OVA tournaments usually take place on Saturdays or Sunday.. Typically, the OVA does not confirm tournament details (ie. which tier and/or pool a team is playing in and hence the team's location and schedule) until 1 to 2 weeks prior to the tournament. The Club does not have any influence on when the OVA releases this information. The OVA has released the competition calendar for the upcoming season, which does list the dates of all tournaments for each age group. <https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/indoor-events-calendar>

Q. My son/daughter wishes to participate in other club teams in other sports. Can he/she still play for Scorpions YVC Inc.?

A. Since our teams practice two to three times per week, in theory, it may be possible to participate in other rep sports, however, the challenge is that both competitive volleyball and other rep sports demand commitment. With a limited number of players carried on a volleyball team, and many players specializing within a limited number of positions, it is not fair to the team if players are not available for both tournaments and practices. Therefore, we strongly feel that it is too difficult to truly make a commitment to more than one sport team when committing to competitive volleyball. Each situation is best discussed with the appropriate coach before accepting an offer to join the Scorpions YVBC Inc.

Q. Do all athletes receive the same playing time?

A. The club is governed by the OVA fair play rules. Please refer to the OVA Youth Competitions Manual 2023-24, available as a PDF on the OVA website. For older athletes, we acknowledge that this is a sensitive issue as every athlete wants to play as much as possible and every parent wants to see their child play their fair share. However, in competitive volleyball, the OVA follows the LTAD (Long Term Athlete Development) Program as its framework for sport development. The LTAD Program identifies stages of development within a sport. Teams within competitive volleyball clubs progress through the stages of Training to Train, Training to Compete and Training to Win. Unlike house league sports, this puts a greater focus on competition and eventually winning. As a member of the OVA, Scorpions YVBC Inc. works within this framework within its training.

From tryouts to practices to tournaments, it is the coach's responsibility to determine where the team is within its development and what is best for the team and its goals. It is the coach's responsibility to develop all players in practice and training. In fact, it is through their practice and training that athletes receive the most instruction, experience and development.

During tournament play, it is the coach's responsibility to determine what is best for the team, athlete and team dynamics in the current circumstances to achieve a team's goals including either competing or winning. This may result in uneven playing time between athletes, especially within our competitive 15 to 18 age group teams. Playing time is not determined by

ability alone. Rather, coaches will also consider the effort, commitment, sportsmanship, awareness of plays, skills, on-court synergy with teammates, ability to focus under stress, to name but a few, to execute plays or specific spot strategies within his/her decision making criteria. In club volleyball, a player cannot be guaranteed to play in every set or match.

For our Southwest Tournaments Select teams we generally observe the fair play rule for most tournaments.

Q. How many players are on a team?

A. Deciding how many athletes to carry on a team is a delicate balance between trying to maximize the experience and playing time for each player while managing the risk of compromising a team being able to compete should athletes be injured during the season. (A minimum of 8 OVA registered players is required to compete within an OVA tournament).

Respect in Sport Course for OVA Teams

- One parent or guardian of all OVA athletes must complete the mandatory online Respect in Sport Course - This course empowers people to recognize and prevent abuse, bullying and harassment through interactive, online certification.

Code of Conducts

- Each coach, player and parent/guardian must read, sign and agree to a standard Club Code of Conduct to maintain a safe and healthy environment.