THE Oakland Volleyball Program
Player/Parent Callouts Info for 2027

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THE Oakland Volleyball Program (formerly Starlings Oakland) is a community-based organization with 501(c)3 non-profit pending. The following information will help prospective players and parents understand our program.

Mission: Since 1998, we have a three-fold mission: 1) to provide the equal opportunity for players from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds to train and compete in the sport of volleyball at the USA Volleyball (USAV) Junior Olympic level in the Northern California Volleyball Association (NCVA); 2) to encourage teamwork, health, positive life skills, and academic achievement; and 3) to foster a community-based, self-sustaining organization.

Philosophy: Our basic philosophy is "Students First, Athletes Second – Winning and everything else will come with development".

Goals: Our goals are personal development and personal enjoyment. We strive to make sure we provide our players with experiences that are positive, enriching, and focused on growth - both on and off the court.

Program: From January to June we provide a full-service volleyball program that not only helps to develop volleyball skills and mechanics but also focuses on development as young ladies/gentlemen and future leaders of the world. The players meet two times per week and in addition to practice and tournaments they do journaling, group discussions, and community service activities.

Depending on facilities and funding availability, we may offer a banquet, open gyms, clinics, funshops, college showcases/visits, and seminars that help to continue the development of our players mentally, physically, academically, and emotionally.

We are Oakland-based and do not own a facility; therefore we utilize courts through the Oakland Unified School District and Peralta College District.

Organizational Growth & Teams: Our program continues to grow and expand and we continue to form alliances & partnerships with other volleyball organizations. This year we plan to carry players on at least two different levels and every committed player will be placed on a team. Players will be placed on teams based on 1) age, 2) ability/skill level, and 3) player position.

Each player will also need to submit a copy of a recent grade report. Players will travel/compete depending on their effort, teamwork, attitude, (ETA) and academics.

Competitive Players – All teams (12&Under, 13-14s, 15-16s, and/or 17-18s) will participate in a Premier League schedule in addition to several special tournaments on weekends and holidays.

Training Players – The training players practice 2 days per week and do not compete. They will be taught the basic skills of passing, setting, hitting, serving, blocking, and digging. They will also learn some team defense and offense. If a player is able to build their skills to a competitive level, she may have the option of playing in competitions.

NOTE: *The formation of teams will depend on the number of coaches, players, and court facilities we can acquire and maintain. There are no expressed or implied guarantees to playing time or placement on a specific team.*

Communication: When making decisions, our consideration first and foremost is for what's in the best interest of the players. In working with young people sometimes they cannot accept and/or understand decisions that are made with regard to the group as a whole. However, when it comes to the individual we make every effort to make sure they understand the coaching decisions with regard to the team as well as the individual.

We ask that players and parents will trust the coaching staff to make decisions that are for the benefit of the organization, teams, and players. Each team's coach will have sole authority and responsibility for their team during practice and tournament times, subject to review or directive of the Program Director. Players and parents are expected to respect the coach's and/or Program Director's decisions and requests.

We regularly communicate with our parents through Parent Meetings, group chats, practices and tournaments, which include information about college recruitment, clinics, camps, community activities, academic programs, etc. To ensure that you receive information in a timely and efficient manner, we will post on the website, send email or text information. If these means of communication are a challenge for some of our parents/players, telephoning will be an additional means for communicating. It is up to the player/parent to insure that the Director, Coach, and Team Parent have a means to communicate timely information.

Program Fees: Our fees are $2,100 ($1100 for 12&Under) to help cover the cost of league registration, coaching stipends, tournaments, gym rentals, program administration, and equipment. This includes 2 practice t-shirts, 4 jerseys, warm-up pants/jacket, and a travel bag (Training players receive 2 practice t-shirts only). Full payment or a payment plan is required prior to putting a player on our roster. However, no player is turned away who has the commitment and puts forth the effort, regardless of their financial situation. We accept payment plans with scheduled amount(s) and date(s).
Note: There will be no refunds unless we receive a physician's notice confirming a season-ending injury prior to March 1st. Under those circumstances, the refund will be 50% of the total fees paid.

Payment is due upon commitment. *You will receive an email with our assessment and how to move forward with commitment as a competitive or training player. A full season USAV/NCVA Membership is required.*

Fundraising/Financial Assistance: We will coordinate several fundraising opportunities over the next several months. Also, financial assistance requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis with low-income verification or other financial hardship.

Community Service: We are very committed to building up other non-profit and civic programs. We receive funding and grants to support our volleyball program and this is our way of "giving back". We provide opportunities for our players to support local assistance to organizations such as the food bank, toy drives, homeless shelters, etc. If a player has a specific interest, please let the Program Director know.

Parent's Responsibilities: You can make sure your child has a pleasurable experience in THE Oakland Volleyball Program by attending parent meetings and staying informed of activities.

- Know the difference between coaching and cheering.
- Be a parent and role model by supporting your player, as well as the team, in all endeavors.
- Support and reinforce the program in its philosophy, goals, and effort to teach Effort, Teamwork, & Attitude (ETA).
- Make sure that program fees are paid on time.
- Help your player attend and be on time for practices and tournaments.
- Treat everyone—players, coaches, opponents, officials, and other parents—with respect. Encourage friends, family, and fans to do the same. This includes respecting the religious beliefs and culture of others.
- Assist with fundraising, transportation, tournaments, hospitality, etc.

Team Parent: We need 1-2 parent volunteers from each team to coordinate:

- Communications for team activities, practices, and tournaments.
- Parents generally provide transportation to and from tournaments for their own child. However, the team parent will also help to arrange carpools if players need a ride.
- Hospitality & refreshments.
  1. Maintain team water bottles at the sideline.
  2. Prepare a food list by Wednesday before each tournament & assemble the team area with a food table, canopy, ice & water at the tournament.
  3. Make sure that we have ice and zip lock bags for occasional injuries.

4. Help clear the area after tournament. Make sure trash is thrown out and stray items are gathered.

Player's Responsibilities:

- Submit grade reports as requested and maintain a 2.0+ overall GPA.
- Habitually give 100% effort, running and hustling throughout practice and games.
- Be committed to the team by attending and being on time for all team practices and tournaments or text coach beforehand.
- Treat everyone—teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, parents—with respect. Encourage friends, family, and fans to do the same. This includes respecting the religious beliefs and culture of others.
- Respond to instruction positively with eye contact, gestures, and words.
- Display sportsmanship regardless of the circumstances.
- Participate in activities, projects, fundraisers, etc.

***PRACTICE**: Mondays & Wednesdays, 6-8PM, beginning January 5th. Locations/Sites are TBD.*
***NOTE: Practices are closed**, i.e. no spectators and no visitors. unless cleared with the Program Director.*

***TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**: We participate in NCVA/USA/AAU Volleyball tournaments (separate membership).*

Tournament	***12 & Under***	***13-14s***	***15-16s***	***17-18s***
California Kickstart / Kickoff		*Jan 16th-18th*	*Jan 16th-18th*	*Jan 16th-18th*
Premier Qualifier	*Jan 30th*	*Jan 24th*	*Jan 23rd*	*Jan 31st*
Premier League #1	*Feb 21st*	*Feb 6th*	*Feb 7th*	*Feb 20th*
President's Day		*Feb 13th-15th*	*Feb 13th-15th*	*Feb 13th-15th*
Premier League #2	*Mar 13th*	*Feb 28th*	*Feb 27th*	*Mar 14th*
Big South Qualifier (Atlanta)				*Mar 26th-28th*
Premier League #3	*Apr 17th*	*Mar 20th*	*Apr 18th*	*Apr 10th*
Far Western (Reno)		*Apr 9th-11th*	*Apr 16th-18th*	*Apr 23rd-25th*
Premier League #4	*May 1st*	*May 2nd*	*May 1st*	*May 2nd*
Premier Regional Championship	*May 15th-16th*	*May 15th-16th*	*May 15th-16th*	*May 15th-16th*
Bay View Classic		*May 29th-31st*	*May 29th-31st*	*May 29th-31st*
Volleyball Festival (Phoenix)		*June 24th-27th*	*June 24th-27th*	*June 24th-27th*
Junior Olympic Nationals		*June 27th-July 5th*	*June 27th-July 5th*	*June 27th-July 5th*

NOTE: Single day tournaments generally last 8AM-6PM and multi-day tournaments generally last 4-6 hours and can begin in the morning (8AM) or the afternoon (2PM). Highlighted Tournaments depend on earning a bid and/or corporate sponsorship.

Participation Policy: Each player interested in being a member of THE Oakland Volleyball Program will be allowed to attend at least one initial practice/callout without commitment. A callout is very similar to a tryout. We prefer to use the term callout because we are "calling out" potential players to show their skills and learn about the opportunity to play volleyball at the Junior Olympic level. We also do not use the term tryout because no player is cut or turned away who is committed and puts forth the effort, regardless of their financial situation, height, or skill level.

Players are expected to be at each practice/competition. At competitions, all players are to be in the team camp area unless the coach gives permission otherwise. If unable to attend, players must notify their coach beforehand. Missing 2 consecutive practices or one competition without prior notification to the coach is grounds for dismissal from the team. If a player is absent due to injury, a medical slip may be requested prior to returning to physical activity.

We have a "practice to play" policy – you practice in order to play in games. Your playing time is an end result of the work put in during practice. We have students at different skill levels and every player makes a contribution to the team as a whole. Although individual playing time will vary, every player is equally important.

Next Step: An email selection notice goes out in the coming week with a deadline for commitment.