

Athlete Selection Criteria

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to give direction and act as a guide to the selection of athletes to CSVc teams. It is not a blueprint governing all possible selection scenarios.

Competitive Focus

CSVc is a volleyball club training young athletes to reach their potential and excel in a competitive environment.

Athlete Selection

Athletes are selected on individual merit in terms of volleyball skills, athletic ability and potential, eagerness to learn and willingness to compete in a team environment. CSVc recognizes the importance of making commitments to athletes so as to minimize their concerns about playing club volleyball in subsequent seasons. To this end, the selection of athletes is a combined process that allows for the guaranteeing of some roster positions, while other roster positions will be filled through open tryouts. While athletes are selected to teams for the current season only, the selection process also considers the potential impact on the continuity and stability of other teams in the current year and all Canuck teams in subsequent years.

Guaranteed Placement

A core group of athletes may be guaranteed roster positions on a team after the end of the current season and prior to open tryouts for the following season. These athletes should only be pre-selected from current Canuck teams and can be asked to sign the VA waiver as of Nov. 1st. The selection committee may allow verbal guaranteed placement of athletes from outside Canuck Stuff under certain circumstances. Coaches cannot guarantee starting positions on a team.

Open Tryouts

The balance of the positions on a team not filled by pre-selected athletes will be selected in open tryouts. These athletes are encouraged to attend tryouts, but are not guaranteed roster positions on a team prior to tryouts.

Technical Evaluation

Athletes are evaluated both for guaranteed placement and at tryouts by a **Selection Group** that is comprised of the Head and Assistant Coaches of the teams, coaches of prior teams and members of a **Technical Committee** appointed by the Board. The Technical Committee is a group of experienced individuals with strong technical volleyball backgrounds that may or may not otherwise be associated with CSVc. Having members of the Technical Committee involved will broaden the collective viewpoints and ensure that teams are not selected solely on the opinions of just a small number of people who may have to evaluate and select athletes in a short period of time.

Athlete Evaluation

Coaches are encouraged to select individual athletes as quickly as possible during tryouts.

When athletes are evaluated at tryouts by the Selection Group, this procedure should generally be followed.

- At the **end of the first tryout** for a team, the Selection Group meets and first determines if there are enough athletes to fill the available positions. If it is deemed there are insufficient numbers or that the skill level of the athletes is not adequate to compete in their age category, then the following steps should be followed:
- Look to the adjacent age groups to see if there is potential to create a mixed age group team that would be competitive in the age group they would need to play in. In the event that there are still insufficient numbers then the board may choose not to enter a team in that age category and may choose to fill that spot and practice time with an additional team from an age group which has enough competent players to fill another team.
- If there are sufficient athletes, the Selection Group then places athletes into three categories – definite prospects to make the team; definitely not prospects to make the team and undecided. At successive tryouts, the Selection Group continues to place athletes into the first two categories. The athletes are also told to come to all future tryouts prepared to make the required financial commitment to CSVC should they be selected to the team.

Before the end of the first tryout, Coaches should list all athletes who are deemed to be definite selections to a team. The coaches should advise them of this at the end of the first tryout. When an athlete is selected, he/she will be asked to agree to sign the AVA waiver and provide the required financial commitment on AVA signing day. Athletes judged as definitely not prospects to make a team should be advised of this at the end of the first tryout.

- Coaches are encouraged to talk to athletes personally and to have the complete team roster selected **during the second and third tryouts**. At some point during these last two tryouts, athletes who have been informed that they have been selected to the team will also be told that they must make a commitment to CSVC and agree to sign the VA waiver form on signing day. If they choose not to make this commitment, they will be thanked for their interest and may also be told they are no longer being considered for a position on a team. Generally an athlete will not be selected to a team without making the above commitments.
- **During the second and third tryouts**, those athletes judged not to be at a high enough overall level to make the team, are informed of this, thanked for their interest and effort and, where warranted, encouraged to continue playing. Athletes not selected to CSVC teams may be encouraged to try out for other local clubs or to sign up for the Dome Club program at the Volleydome. Where athletes are considered to have the potential to be selected to future CSVC teams, they should be informed of this and given specific advice as to skills to work on.
- **Before the end of the last tryout**, all roster positions should be filled with athletes who have committed to CSVC and agreed to sign the AVA waiver and made arrangements to make the required financial commitment.

Selection to Specific Teams.

Where athletes can be selected to more than one team, the following general principles should be applied.

- **Selection to an Older Age Team.** In order to preserve the integrity of teams at all age levels within CSVC, athletes will be selected to play for an older age team only under exceptional circumstances. An athlete will be selected to an older age team only if, in the opinion of the Selection Group, the athlete will very likely be a starter or see significant court time, and the coach of that team acknowledges that the athlete will get this court time.

Under normal circumstances each team will only be allowed to have one younger age athlete playing at an older age level. In exceptional circumstances more than one athlete may be allowed to play for an older age team only if the Selection Committee recommends for Board approval that this would be in the interests of that athlete and that this would not have a significant negative impact on the team that athlete would otherwise play for. Board approval would be required for any athlete to play up more than one age class.

- Selection shall take into account playing position and there must be a balance by position.
- To ensure that all players on a team will be capable of playing in competition, there should not be too wide a difference in general skill level between the top tier of players and the bottom. While some athletes may be considered *role players*, to have a worthwhile experience, they have to be at a level to be able to play that role on the court. Other athletes may be *project players* who, while demonstrating exceptional athletic ability and attitude, currently lack the volleyball skills to be likely to have significant playing time in competition. This must be clearly indicated to the athlete and his/her parents.
- In cases where there are multiple teams training together within an age group, athletes will be selected and placed onto their competition teams by January 31st, where in the collective opinion of the Selection Group, they will benefit the most in terms of their longer term development. **Athletes cannot choose the team they wish to play for.**
- Team rosters for the competition season will be completed by January 31st for U15 to U18 teams. U14 teams may choose to continue to evaluate the development of their players into the competitive season and must solidify their team rosters in accordance with the Volleyball Canada roster lock date.
- Keeping in mind all of the above, athletes are placed at their appropriate levels in the opinion of the Selection Group. Athletes are selected to specific teams by the coaches in accordance with the Club's Mission Statement to provide opportunities for athletes *to excel at their highest level* and to ensure the continuity and stability of all Canuck teams in the current and future years.

Final Decision

This selection process has to take place in a cooperative atmosphere. Where coaches cannot agree on the placing of specific athletes, the member(s) of the Technical Committee will attempt to reconcile the differences of opinion. Where differences cannot be resolved, the member(s) of the Technical Committee and/or the CSVC Board will ultimately make the decision.