



Gulf Coast Region

Grassroots program

for girls and boys

The Gulf Coast Region's Grassroots program aims to develop a lifetime passion for the sport at a developmental age.

Supporting the opportunity with a significant reduction in membership fees, the structure will be as follows for these membership categories in 2011-2012.

8 & under membership – 8-and-under players – FREE.

GC-youth membership – 11-and-under players – \$15.

Developmental membership – 12-and-over players – \$30.

Please note:

Grassroots categories above can participate only in club and region training sessions and may play only in region-sponsored youth/developmental league tournaments. Members in these categories may NOT participate in regionally sanctioned tournaments and may NOT participate in nationally sanctioned tournaments.

Members always can upgrade to full junior status at any time to participate in national and regional sanctioned tournaments and events. Upgrade cost:

- 8 and under – \$65
- 11 and under – \$50
- Developmental – \$35

Year of age is determined by a Sept. 1, 2012 cutoff date, meaning if a member's DOB is Aug. 30, 2000, she plays as a 12-year-old. These registration categories are available presently on the online registration. Go to the region website at www.gulfcoastvolleyball.org and follow the menu to the "Online registration" page. Review the instructions and register in appropriate category.

Those of you who have Volley-Tots, Tiny Spikers, etc. - have them register as **8 and under** or **GC-Youth - 11 and under** limited members. Official clinic attendance is not required but is encouraged. Score will be kept at tournaments, but NO scorebook, only a running score, they will call lines and coaches will R1 and R2 unless we use region officials. Scoring rules will be a little different - "**MAXI Scoring**" - rally winner will serve and a score recorded off play from serve, then a ball will be entered by the coach to team A. That ball will be played out until rally ends, then a ball will be entered by the coach to team B, and that ball is played out. If a team wins both coach-entered balls, they get a bonus point. If entered balls are split, a wash occurs, and play resumes with the team that won the served ball rally, serving. Scoring philosophy at a grassroots rudimentary skill level recognizes that rally opportunities are minimized by several factors: service errors, serve-receive errors, the net winning as many points as do the teams, depth and speed of object perception, spatial awareness skills, etc. By playing "MAXI Scoring," the chances for rallies increase, as do the touches on the ball in game situations.

Teams do not need numbered jerseys, but similar T-shirts are necessary. Tournaments will not present prizes, instead providing a USA Volleyball logo item of participation to each player on each team.

For the **Developmental League Players - 12 and over limited members** - Official clinic attendance is optional and encouraged if members will play in developmental league tournaments. Scorebook and libero tracking will be kept at tournaments, players will call lines and coaches will R1 and R2 unless we use region officials. Regular USA Volleyball rules will apply, including uniform rules with proper numbering and color.

Tournaments will not present prizes, instead providing a USA Volleyball logo item of participation to each player on each team.

The region would like to extend the following to all directors who will promote the grassroots divisions, youth division of play: Each player participating in the club's grassroots efforts will receive a Molten First Touch V280 Ball (7 ounces - same as volleyball lite) and a white long-sleeve T-shirt with the Gulf Coast Region logo on the front. Each club will be responsible for reimbursing the region for handling and shipping.

WOW! A FREE VOLLEYBALL and REGION LOGO T-SHIRT for each grassroots participant.

The criteria for these benefits is to provide a training window of participation that has a duration of 60 days with a training session that numbers between 16 and 20 sessions and at least 2 tournaments entered.

Remember, teams can be co-ed, all girls or something that we have not seen in our region in years: all boys.

First scheduled Grassroots tournament is Saturday, Jan. 14 in Elberta, AL with a 9 a.m. start time.

Second scheduled Grassroots tournament is Saturday, Jan. 21 in Elberta, AL with a noon start time.

Grassroots tournament ages:

- Developmental League tournaments will have an age restriction of 12 to 14 years of age to play.
- Youth tournaments 9 to 11 years of age.
- 8 & under tournaments – 8 and under.

Developmental players 15 years of age and older will not have a grassroots venue for tournament participation. That age should be training in your travel club program.

In all levels of Grassroots tournament play, multiple rounds of pool play are encouraged over elimination bracket play.

Make your plans now to facilitate these important ages. It is the future of our sport and should be given your highest consideration.

If you have suggestions and or would like to partner with the region to host a Grassroots event, please let me know.

Your valuable time and dedicated effort to this great sport are always appreciated.

Educating through sports,

Philip Bryant

Commissioner

Gulf Coast Region

of USA Volleyball

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