

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE (YVL)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

YVL Objective

The YVL provides a “GoodSports” environment for young players to have fun playing volleyball while learning the fundamentals of the game. The YVL focuses on skill development, sportsmanship, volleyball knowledge, teamwork, and fun! The YVL is for novice to experienced players who wish to learn while playing in a recreational atmosphere. Every player is guaranteed to participate in each match.

Who may participate?

The YVL is a recreation league that is open to all children 10-16 years old with divisional separations as follows:

- 10-11
- 12-13
- 14-16

All players will have a Skill Evaluation prior to the start of the season. The Skill Evaluation is used to place players on evenly balanced teams. For more information on the Skill Evaluation, please see pages 2-3.

Generally Asked Questions:

1. What are the differences between Instructional Volleyball, The Volleyball Skills Development and the Youth Volleyball League?

Instructional Volleyball and the Volleyball Skills Development are both instructional classes that concentrate on building the fundamentals of volleyball. There are no officiated matches. The YVL meets twice a week, which includes one practice and one match per week. The YVL focuses on skill development, as well as providing a more “match-like” situation.

2. Would you recommend Instructional Volleyball, the Volleyball Skills Development, or the YVL for a ‘beginner’?

Beginning players are welcome in all 3 programs. We generally recommend Instructional Volleyball or the Volleyball Skills Development for beginners because it can be difficult for them to jump right into officiated matches. That said, there is no requisite experience required and the league focus is on helping new players learn and develop.

3. What is the average ability level of the YVL Players?

The majority of YVL Players have beginner to intermediate experience. The level of play will be a bit higher in the 14-16 division.

4. Does the YVL accept Team Registration?

No. In an effort to keep the League fair and competitive, the YVL only accepts individual registrants.

5. Do you except special requests?

Due to the overwhelming number of special requests in past seasons, the Youth Volleyball League does not accommodate special requests. During the registration process, please let registration staff know if your child is not able to practice on a specific night of the week. We do our best to put each family at a location closest to home.

Balance of teams will be the first priority and to help the league accomplish this goal, every player MUST attend the mandatory Skill Evaluation.

6. Can my child play up an age division?

You must register in the correct age group. Because there are relatively fewer 14-16s in the league, the 13s that receive the highest average scores at the Skill Evaluation will be moved up to the 14-16 division. This is to ensure that players are placed in the best division for them. Below are some details regarding why we don't like to move kids up.

HCRP promotes allowing the child to grow physically and mentally and to allow time for that child to develop his/her fundamental skills in his/her age-appropriate group. Moving a child up before they are mentally ready is often overlooked. A child that is not mentally ready to manage the stress of playing up might actually lose his/her interest and leadership ability if he/she starts to struggle with self-confidence and frequent failure.

7. What kind of jersey is provided by the league?

The YVL will provide a t-shirt style jersey (different color for each team) for each player to wear during matches. This will be distributed by your team's head coach at your first match.

8. What does my child need to bring to practices?

Your child will perform best in athletic clothing and flat soled athletic shoes. Knee pads are recommended but not required. Please note: players do not need to wear their jerseys to practice, but are welcome to do so. Please bring an individual water/sports drink bottle for your child. Players can bring their own volleyballs to practices if desired; however, the YVL will provide balls for practices and matches.

9. What is the Skill Evaluation?

The Skill Evaluation is NOT a try-out. No player is ever 'cut' during the evaluation. The Skill Evaluation is considered the "First Practice of the Season" and is a key factor in keeping league

play balanced. The Skill Evaluation is typically 1 hour long per age division. The YVL coaching/officiating staff lead the players through fundamental skill work and drills while assessing each player’s skill level. Details about the Skill Evaluation will be emailed out prior to league start.

10. Does my child have to attend the Skill Evaluation?

The Skill Evaluation is mandatory. It is a crucial factor in placing each child on his/her team. It also provides additional time on the court for skill development and growth.

11. Is the YVL for boys, girls or co-ed?

The 10-11, 12-13, and 14-16 divisions are all co-ed, although a vast majority of the participants are female. A boys division may be offered depending on the season.

12. What is the schedule/details for practice and matches?

Division	Practice Days/Times	Game Days/Times	Possible Locations	Net Heigh	Ball
10-11 12-13 14-16	Monday – Friday (5-9pm)	Sundays (noon-4pm) <i>Playoff tournaments will start earlier</i>	Meadowbrook, Roger Carter Comm Ctr, North Laurel Comm Ctr <i>(Volleyball House in the Spring)</i>	7’4”	Regulation

13. Will all players receive playing time?

Yes. HCRP believes every child should receive quality time on the court during practices and matches. Coaches must follow a rotation that ensures equal playing time.

What are some important policies we should be aware of?

- A player is not considered registered until the registration fee has been paid in full.
- Players cannot attend the Skill Evaluation unless registered for the league.
- Special requests are not accepted. This includes requests for specific coaches, teammates, times, and locations.
- The YVL follows the National Federation of High School Volleyball Rule Book. The NFHS prohibits wearing jewelry during games/practices. ***“... Jewelry is prohibited. Religious and medical-alert medals are not considered jewelry. A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical-alert medal must be taped and may be visible.”***
This rule is in place for the safety of all our YVL Players and to alleviate any potential harm that could happen during physical activity.
- Teams are required to pick up trash and belongings around their benches after each practice/game.

Some other important facts parents should know include:

- Spectators must view the match from the designated bleacher areas. Spectators are prohibited from the playing court, team bench areas, and sidelines.
- Spectators are prohibited from tobacco and alcohol use.
- Spectators are prohibited from using vulgar, lewd, or obscene language or gestures towards officials, coaches, players or other spectators.
- Spectators are encouraged to promote good sportsmanship and positive support for all YVL players and coaches.
- Spectators are to follow the Code of Conduct located on the YVL Website.

Inclement Weather:

HCRP Inclement Weather Policy – HCRP will strive to ensure safe and accessible HCRP Facilities throughout the Winter Season. All HCRP Facilities and Programs will be cancelled/closed if the Maryland State Police Snow Emergency Plan is in effect and will remain closed until it has been lifted. In the event of inclement weather, please call the facility information line for details about the program.

Meadowbrook Athletic Complex (MAC) – 410-313-4452 (option 2)
 Roger Carter Community Center (RCCC) – 410-313-4452 (option 3)
 North Laurel Community Center (NLCC) – 410-313-4452 (option 5)

For HCRP Facilities, if you hear the standard greeting, the program will run as scheduled. For HCPSS, if after-school and evening programs are cancelled, there is no practice.

Concussion Protocol:

Please see YVL website for more information and forms: www.howardcountymd.gov/volleyball.

How can we help?

The YVL encourages volunteers and is always in need of head coaches and assistant coaches each season.

How do I become a coach and what are the coaching requirements?

All YVL Coaches must complete the HCRP Coaches Registry Requirements, which include:

- Complete the Volunteer Site Application (www.HoCoVolunteer.org)
- Attach the following to your Volunteer Profile:
 - o Head shot from the shoulders up. This photo is placed on your Coaches Registry badge that is required to be worn while coaching.
 - o Certificate from the Coaching Essentials course at www.ASEP.com. Volunteers can request a code to take the course directly from the Volunteer website free of charge.
 - o Certificate from the “Concussion in Sports” course at www.NFHSLearn.com.
 - o Work permit if the applicant is under the age of 18.
 - o All applicants over the age of 18 must undergo a Background Check (staff will undergo CJIS fingerprinting upon hiring and have a background review in subsequent years). In order to complete the background check, applicants will receive an email directly from SSCI National Background after completing their Volunteer Application and attaching an ASEP certificate to their profile. The background checks are completed on-line on a secured site.

- **Returning volunteers** will need to request an update to their registry status, including a background review, on an annual basis if they plan to continue coaching with our programs.

Does the YVL provide financial assistance for players/families?

Yes. For more information about financial aid and scholarship opportunities please contact Howard County Recreation & Parks by visiting <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RecandParksForms.htm> or by calling 410-313-4659.

HCRP Refund Policy

League Refund Policy: a 20% administrative fee is deducted for all refund requests more than four (4) weeks prior to league starting; a 50% refund if withdrawal requested more than two (2) weeks prior to league starting; no refunds are given less than two (2) weeks prior to the start of the league.

Who should I contact for more information?

For more information, please contact Carson Nickell at 410-313-4720 or cjnickell@howardcountymd.gov.

Thank you for your support of the Youth Volleyball League and its players. We hope that you and your family have a fun, safe, and positive experience this season!

Sincerely,

Howard County Recreation & Parks & the YVL!

Updated 8/30/2017