## Creating a Boys Volleyball Team at Your School

- Identify a Need for a Program at the School
  - o Is there enough interest in the student population to field a team?
  - o What is the minimum number of athlete needed to start a program?
  - o What other sports are offered at the same time that may draw athletes away?
  - o Offer a sign up sheet/day for students to indicate their interest.
  - o Categorize the interested players
    - Upper classmen are great to spark interest and persuade administrators
    - Under classmen involvement indicates longevity and sustainability
    - Past experience vs. novice
  - o What other school teams exist in the area for scheduling competition
    - Contact Principal and AD at those schools for additional support
  - Notify the Athletic Director of intentions to pursue starting a team and identify any major unknown barriers that would prevent the creation of a new team at the school
- Identify a Coach
  - Willing to commit time to start a new program
  - o Willing to approach the school administration
  - o Willing to actively recruit additional players
- Create an Advocacy Group
  - o Interested Players
  - Supportive Parents
  - Local Volleyball clubs/supporters
  - o Coaches
- Connect with the Athletic Director and Principal
  - Notify them that you are surveying interest in starting a team
  - o Provide a list of interested players
  - o Provide the names of interested coaches
- Enlist Players
  - o Urge interested players to promote the team and encourage a friends to join
  - o Work with school personnel to get the word out
    - Schedule a team meeting for interested players
      - Before school, after school, lunches, homeroom
      - Use daily announcements to promote the meeting
      - Obtain the school rules and guidelines for posting flyers
      - Produce interesting and inviting posters
      - Schedule when flyers will be posted and removed
    - Get the school newspaper to do a feature article about the team
    - Use school newsletters and mailings to announce the start of a team
    - Involve the girls coach as much as possible
    - Seek support from PE Teachers to promote participation

- o Keep the Athletic Director and Principal advised of all activities
- o Involve the potential coach in all activities
- Seek School Approval for Starting a Team
  - o Meet with administration; athletic director, principal, superintendent
    - Indicate the desired impact of starting a team
    - Provide them with the proposed annual budget for the team
      - Coach salaries
      - Transportation
      - Equipment
      - Officials
      - Uniforms
      - Awards
      - Trainer/Training supplies
      - Facility use fees
      - Custodial fees
      - Gate Fees / Product Sales (e.g., t-shirts) INCOME
    - Seek input for unforeseen costs
    - Discuss facility usage issues including the potential practice schedule
    - Have a proposed plan for transportation issues
    - Have an established start and end of the season
    - Provide a tentative competition schedule including potential opponents
    - Have procedures established for home competitions
    - Prepare and example of team rules and guidelines for
      - Players
      - Parents
      - Coaches
    - Provide administrators with contact information from other local schools
      - Athletic Directors
      - Opposing team coaches.
      - Volleyball Coaches Association
- Organize Parents
  - o Form a booster club in cooperation with the Athletic Department
  - o Create a team roster including parent's names and contact information
  - o Encourage participation by parents but not be forceful or intimidating
  - o Provide a list of areas needed support and duties associated with each area
    - Fund Raising
    - Concession booths
    - Hospitality for visiting teams
    - Team Parents
    - Event Management (ticket takers, ushers, crowd control, program sales, etc.)
- Contact Boys Volleyball Association or Volleyball Coaches Association.

- o Let them know of your intention to start a boys' team
- Ask for help to schedule competitions and officials
- o Seek their advice since they have been in your situation
- Involve high school players with middle school and elementary players
  - o Form teams within the school district for younger players and have high school players coach
  - o High school players host a clinic for younger players
  - o Host a weekend festival/tournament for younger players
    - Play grass or sand with 2 or 4 players
    - Use a very public park to promote the event and draw spectators
    - Have a high school scrimmage so the young players can watch the high school players
- Get players involved with camps, clinics, and club teams
  - o Host a clinic for players at your school for all teams in your area
  - o Host a coaches clinic at your school
  - o Establish your school as "the" school for boys' volleyball in your area or state