

# Stoirm Volleyball 2024

## *Celebrating 25 Years of Club Volleyball in Antigonish!*



### Overview

Welcome to 2024! It is a huge year as we are celebrating a major milestone of 25 years in Antigonish. We are so excited to have your families celebrate this year with us.

Please take the time to read the following sections carefully as our processes have changed since last year.

### What's New

Since COVID shut us down in 2020, we have been successful in rebuilding and re-establishing Stoirm as a positive, inclusive, and respected club both on and off the court. Last year we moved back into a more competitive atmosphere, and since then we have acknowledged that we need to look for ways to create opportunities for more of our athletes to potentially play at a higher level.

#### ***For our Female Athletes (14U-18U):***

In discussions with other clubs and given the way Volleyball Nova Scotia ranks teams via their Seeding and Super Series tournaments that we participate in, we have decided to move away from our own designation of teams as T1 or T2 teams. Moving forward, all Stoirm teams from the 13U-18U age levels are considered **Travel Teams**, where we will all be competing and representing the club at tournaments across the province and at Provincials in Halifax in April.

To support this, and to support the competition level of all our female athletes as best we can, and considering the number of coaches we have and facility times, this year have introduced two evaluation camps; one for the 17-18U age level, and another for the 14U-16U age level. All athletes looking to play at one of these age levels were required to attend at least one of these evaluation camps. Due to our increasing size and carrying capacity we were limited to the number of new athletes we could welcome to the club at these age levels but were excited to be able to welcome a handful of new athletes.

Athletes in the 14U-16U age group were permitted to attend the 17U-18U evaluation camp, however they were not guaranteed a spot on an older team. If they were not selected, they attended the 14U-16U evaluation camp. 13U athletes are permitted to attend an evaluation camp **only** if they have previously played one full year of club volleyball at the 13U level (see below for information for our 13U program and our 12U development program).

We feel this new format will provide an opportunity for all our athletes to compete at their respective development levels within the sport, while providing an appropriately challenging environment for them to grow as athletes both on and off the court.

#### ***13U Girls team (Athletes born on September 1, 2010 – December 31, 2011)***

Based on the success of the 12U development stream last year, all previous 12U athletes who may still be of 12U age are invited to move up to the 13U age level. We will be rostering 2 teams at this level and are following

2023's format of registration on SportHub. We will open our registration up to last year's group first and will then fill remaining spots on a first come, first serve basis, followed by a waitlist. Unfortunately, we can only carry 24 athletes between the two teams. The maximum number of athletes on each roster is 12 and we want to ensure that all athletes will receive an equal amount of court time. We would love to take everyone, but we are restricted by coach availability and facility allotment.

This age group will participate in 2 practices/week, 2-3 weekend tournaments and provincials in April.

### ***Development Stream (12U girls and boys; Athletes born September 1, 2011 – December 31, 2012)***

We will be running this program again for 2024. This will be a 1x/week program (usually Sunday mornings) again from mid/end January-April. This is not a travel team, however we hope to be able to organize some friendly scrimmages later in the season.

### ***Stoirm Boys***

In discussions with other clubs and given the way Volleyball Nova Scotia ranks teams via their Seeding and Super Series tournaments that we participate in, we have decided to move away from our own designation of teams as T1 or T2 teams. Moving forward, all Stoirm teams from the 13U-18U age levels are considered **Travel Teams**, where we will all be competing and representing the club at tournaments across the province and at Provincials in Halifax in April.

We will be registering an 18U and 16U boys team and will be running a development stream for 13U and younger. *Note: The Boys divisions are still growing across the province. As such, VNS does not offer a 13U/15U/17U age group.*

### **Leadership Stream:**

Leadership and Service are values that Stoirm leans into with all their participants. Without these, we simply wouldn't have the club. Last year we created a Leadership Stream with our senior athletes called Stoirm Buddies. Part of the responsibilities as a Stoirm athlete was to participate each Sunday morning with our 12U development group. This was incredibly successful, and we are looking forward to continuing this program.

Beginning this year, our Stoirm Buddies program will be reserved for our 18U athletes, where they will be required to complete the SafeSport training module (45min), which will provide them an NCCP coaching number. Younger athletes at the 16U level who are interested are encouraged to reach out. Scheduling will be sorted in the new year. We are also encouraging our athletes ages 15 and up to pursue their refereeing certifications if this is an avenue of interest. We have had a surge in the last couple of years with new referees, which is absolutely fantastic, and incredibly helpful for us, our neighboring clubs, and VNS with regards to game and tournament organizing.

At the end of the season we will provide a certificate for these athletes acknowledging their leadership and service back to the club.

## **Registration**

Once your athlete has been evaluated and placed on a roster, you will be able to then register through <https://mysporthub.ca/>. If you are new, please take your time to acquaint yourself with this platform and payment process\* (online via the SportHub platform or e-transfer). If you need assistance with registration, please reach out to [admin@mysporthub.ca](mailto:admin@mysporthub.ca) or [stoirmvolleyball@gmail.com](mailto:stoirmvolleyball@gmail.com).

Fees this season for all travel teams at the 13U-18U age categories will be \$375: \$325 + \$50 (refundable jersey deposit). These fees are the same as 2023.

The Development stream will also remain at \$125, which includes a Stoirm numbered jersey that this group keeps.

- Club fees cover the following: Volleyball Nova Scotia & Volleyball Canada registration fees for athletes and coaches, tournament fees, referee fees, monthly facility & storage charges, coaching expenses, coaching courses/conferences, etc., equipment replenishment, first aid supplies, admin costs (website hosting, digital media, meeting room fees, etc.)

### Key Season Dates

Practices for all groups will begin on/week of Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Development squads (girls and boys) will practice Sundays 1030-12pm at Dr. JH Gilis Regional High School.

Travel team practice times are as follows (please note that this is subject to change, but we hope this will help in your planning):

	<u>Team</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>
<b>Female travel teams</b>	13U (both teams)	Dr. JH Gillis	Sundays 12pm – 130pm
		Pomquet	Tuesdays 6 – 730pm
	14U	Dr. JH Gillis	Sundays 130pm – 3pm
		Pomquet	Thursdays 6 – 730pm
	15U Blue	Dr. JH Gillis	Sundays 130pm – 3pm
		SAJS	Fridays 715-9pm
	15U Black	Dr. JH Gillis	Tuesdays 8pm – 930pm
		AEC	Wednesdays 645pm-830pm
	16U	Dr. JH Gillis	Sundays 430pm – 6pm
		SAJS	Mondays 500pm – 645pm
18U Blue	SAJS	Mondays 500pm – 645pm	
	East Antigonish	Wednesdays 500pm – 645pm	
18U Black	Dr. JH Gillis	Sundays 430pm – 6pm	
	AEC	Wednesdays 5-645pm	
<b>Male travel teams</b>	18U	Dr. JH Gillis	Sundays 300 – 430pm
		East Antigonish	Wednesdays 500pm – 645pm
	16U	Dr. JH Gillis	Sundays 300 – 430pm
		Dr. JH Gillis	Tuesdays 8pm – 930pm

The following dates are applicable to our teams. Location for the 14U seeding tournament is tbd while NS Championships will be held in Halifax. 13U tourneys will be announced once they become available.

- 14U Triple Ball Game format Ends: February 15, 2024
- Super Series #1 15UG February 3-4, 2024
- Super Series #1 16UG/16UB February 10-11, 2024

- Super Series #1 18UG/18UB February 17-18, 2024
- Super Series #2 15UG March 2-3, 2024
- Super Series #2 16UG/16UB March 23-24, 2024
- 14U Seeding 14UG/14UB March 23-24, 2024
- Super Series #2 18UG/18UB April 5-7, 2024
  
- VNS Championships 13UG/14UG/14UB April 12-14, 2024
- VNS Championships 15UG/16UG/16UB April 26-28, 2024
- VNS Championships 17UG/18UG/18UB May 3-5, 2024

Our 12U season will conclude April 28<sup>th</sup>.

We hope to continue practices through the week of March break this year.

### **Ongoing Fundraising**

We are part of Sport Nova Scotia's SportSplit monthly 50/50 draw via Rafflebox (same platform as the provincial Firemen's 50/50). It is a monthly, province-wide, multisport, online 50/50 raffle. We will work to push this platform on our social media channels this season.

To buy tickets, go to [www.sportsplit.ca](http://www.sportsplit.ca), click "Buy Tickets Now" in the upper right-hand corner, choose your entry. At the end of the Billing Information section, you will see a drop-down menu titled "I would like to support:" and you can choose Antigonish Stoirm Volleyball. Thanks in advance for your support!

### **Serve-A-Thon Event**

Serve-A-Thon was such an enormous success last year, we are bringing it back! It was a spectacular way to kick off the season and we can't wait to do it again on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at Dr. JH Gillis Regional High, in lieu of practices that day. Stay tuned for details!