

- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS -

- **What is DFFO Volleyball?** DFFO is a volleyball club that is dedicated to the skill development of young female athletes in grades K-12. We host our club season from December through the end of May or the end of June (depending on your commitment level). We also offer youth programs along with private lessons year round.
- **What is our mission statement?** "We are committed to teaching the game of volleyball and training our participants in a positive, competitive, and family-oriented environment with coaches who are well-educated, passionate about the sport and will lead with high integrity."
- **Who are the coaches?** Our coaching staff is comprised of college coaches, high school coaches, and college student-athletes who are committed to our mission. We work hard to train our staff so they are knowledgeable about the game and use up to date training techniques. All of our team coaches work alongside lead coaches who are very experienced. Our coaches all have passed a background check through AAU and are certified on dealing with concussions.
- **Why are there so many different team names under DFFO?** DFFO is a combined effort of Dead Frog (DF) Volleyball Club and FaR Out (FO) Volleyball club. The whole organization is run by a combined staff. Under the DFFO umbrella are: DFFO National, which are our top level teams consisting of players from all over Southwest and West Michigan, Dead Frog is our regional site in Kalamazoo, FaR Out is our regional site in Grand Rapids, and Capital is our regional site in Lansing.

- **What are the costs to participate?**

DFFO National 13-14 - \$2750
DFFO National 15-18 - \$3150
Dead Frog 6 Month 13-18 - \$1895
Dead Frog 3 Month 12 - \$695
Dead Frog 3 Month 13-18 - \$895

These fees include everything, including your coach's hotel and other travel expenses. The only additional costs are your own person travel expenses.

*Those athletes that did not participate on a DFFO or Dead Frog team last year will also need to purchase a team warm-up (approx. \$80).

- **Are there payment plans available?** Yes you will have the option to pay all of your club fees up front or you can choose a payment plan, which will have additional fees. We accept cash or check presented in person or sent via US Mail. We also accept credit card payments through the website
- **Is there any other financial assistance with club fees?** Yes! We do a cookie sale twice a year where you are able to sell cookie dough. Half of what you sell goes toward your club fees. We also participate in SCRIP. It's a program where you buy gift cards and a percentage goes toward your club fees. You can learn more on our Fundraising page. If you have a special financial need, please contact the director in your area.
- **What are tryouts like?** Tryouts will consist of skill testing and game play situations. All locations have two tryout dates. Please attend both tryouts if there are two dates listed. We have several coaches facilitating the tryout and even more coaches evaluating each player. Players are assigned a tryout number so that everyone is on an equal level. We assume that every player going through tryouts wants to participate. After tryouts, we will post teams on our website. You will look for your tryout number to see which team you have been placed on. If for some reason, we cannot place an athlete on a team the athlete can be put on our waiting list. However, we will do everything in our power to place every player who tries out for a team.
- **How are teams selected?** Teams are created based on ability level. For our national and 6 month teams this could mean that ages are combined if they are of similar ability level. For 3-month teams, players are typically placed in their grade level first then separated by ability level.

- **Which try out level do I register for if I want to be considered for both multiple levels?** The athlete should register for the highest level they wish to be placed at. If you would like to be placed on a DFFO National team please register through the DFFO registration site. Those athletes not placed on a National team will automatically be listed on the tryouts for their regional site as well.
- **Do I have to attend National tryouts and a Regional tryout to be considered for both?** We would prefer that you attend both so we can see you with the rest of the players wanting to be considered for each level.
- **Are parents allowed to watch the tryout process?** For tryout sessions held at Caledonia, we will close the gym to parents because there is just no room. At all other sites parents can observe. We do ask that you make every effort to not distract the participants or our coaching staff. Please note that at all times only tryout participants and our coaching staff are allowed on the courts.
- **Can a player who did not play at DFFO, Capital, Dead Frog, or FaR Out in the 2014-2015 club season have a fair shot at making a top team?** Yes! Each girl has an equal opportunity to make a top team. Bottom line...if your daughter deserves to make a top team, she will.
- **What is the age cutoff for the 2015-2016 club season?**
 - 12 and under – 9.1.03
 - 13 and under – 9.1.02
 - 14 and under – 9.1.01
 - 15 and under – 9.1.00
 - 16 and under – 9.1.99
 - 17 and under – 9.1.98
 - 18 and under – 9.1.97

* Athletes in grades 8 or lower should tryout with their grade; not age. Athletes may move up an age group if the directors feel it is a better fit. Contact your director if you are interested in playing “up” an age group.
- **How many teams will DFFO and Dead Frog have per age division?** For our national teams we will have 1 team per age group (13-15). We anticipate having two 16s and two 18s team. For our regional sites, we will have as many teams in each age group as long as we feel it is a viable team. **We will do everything that we can to place every athlete who tries out.**
- **Will my daughter make a team if she participates in the tryouts?** Our goal is to place every single athlete who tries out on a team. In order to ensure that all of our teams have a high quality product, we will not offer a product that is not to the standard of DFFO. We do not feel that putting teams together to just fill spots is a positive experience for the player, parents or the club.
- **How much is it to tryout?** We have a \$50 nonrefundable tryout fee. You only pay the tryout fee one time and you can attend as many different tryouts as you would like.
- **What if my daughter is chosen for a team, but we choose not to play for DFFO or Dead Frog?** The number one thing we ask during the tryout process is that you be up front with us if you're considering multiple clubs. We do assume that if you're at our tryout, you're planning to play. If you withdraw after you have accepted your team placement, you will be responsible for all club dues for the 2015-2016 season.
- **Does DFFO, Capital, Dead Frog, or FaR Out offer anything for younger kids?** We have a youth academy at all 3 of our regional sites (GR, Kalamazoo, & Lansing). The youth academy is for grades K-6 and takes a systematic approach toward teaching movement and volleyball specific skills. You can find more information on each locations camp or youth program page.
- **How much travel is involved with club volleyball?** The DFFO national teams will travel to a few tournaments that are out of state (Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky and Michigan). All of the national teams will travel to Orlando, FL for the AAU Nationals in June. The 3 month and 6 month teams at our regional sites will not travel as much. A general rule of thumb for 6-month teams is that you may have 1 or 2 tournaments out of state and may have the options to attend AAU Nationals in Florida. Three-month teams will have tournament in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, or Muskegon. Tentative tournament schedules are included in our general information packet.

- **How many players will be on each team?** The amount of players for each team will be set during the tryout process and will be determined based on the make-up of each individual team. For example, if a team were to run a 5-1, a 9 player roster would be suitable for the makeup of that team. If a team is going to run a 6-2, the roster may have either 10 or 11 players. On average we like to keep the number close to 9, so we can reduce playing time issues.
- **Are we able to request people to be on a team with?** Unfortunately, we are not able to take requests of this nature. We have to consider a number of factors when we create teams and we cannot guarantee these requests.
- **How often are practices?** Our national teams will practice 3 times per week on weeks that they are not competing on the weekend for a total of 8 hours. Teams at our regional sites will practice 2 times per week. Length of practice will be between 2-2.5 hours depending on gym availability and age group. Weekend practices may be on Saturdays or Sundays. However, Sunday practices will not begin before 12:00 noon to accommodate family and/or church commitments.
- **When are practices?** We try to give you a general idea of the practice schedule for each age and level before tryouts, but this is tentative because we do not know exactly how many teams we will have in a given age division and that affects the practice schedule. Practices are not consistently the same nights in the month of December because gym space is very limited. Starting the week of Jan. 4 your practices will remain consistent each week.
- **When do practices begin for the season?** National teams will begin practice the week of November 30. Practices at all the Regional sites will begin the week of December 7.
- **When will we find out our practice schedule?** The practice schedule can't be finalized until we know how many teams we will have in each age division. We hope to post practice schedules along with team placements so you have this information prior to making your commitment.
- **Where are practices held?** DFFO National teams practice primarily at the Courthouse facilities in both Kalamazoo and Byron Center. Occasionally other sites are used based on availability. Dead Frog teams practice at the Courthouse of Kalamazoo and Portage Central.
- **When do we get tournament information (when and where they play)?** Most tournament schedules are not posted until two or three days prior to the event. We will have links on our home page so that you can check to see when schedules are posted. We have NO CONTROL on the time frame in which tournaments are posted.
- **How long is the club season?** Tryouts are held in October and November, and teams will start practicing in December. National teams will compete until AAU Nationals which are the middle of June. Most 6 month teams will wrap at the end of May. Winter 3-month teams will be done the first week of March and Spring 3 month teams will start the middle of March and go through the end of May.
- **When are spring tryouts?** The winter season ends March 6 and we hope to have tryouts the following week so teams can begin the week of March 21.
- **Is playing time guaranteed?** Equal playing time is not guaranteed at any level. Every level guarantees an equal opportunity to improve and earn playing time. You are being offered a spot on the team; not a starting position or any particular amount of playing time. We guarantee you training and instruction in practice and the opportunity to earn playing time and/or a starting position. We DO NOT GUARANTEE ANY AMOUNT OF PLAYING TIME TO ANYONE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. Playing time is earned by performance in practice.
- **Can the multi-sport athlete play club volleyball?** Yes, many of our student-athletes participate in more than one sport, especially in our younger age groups. Naturally, as the teams advance to a higher level of competition, we see less of the multi-sport athlete. Our national team athletes are only allowed to choose one additional activity outside of DFFO. This could be basketball, track, or theatre. The most important thing that a multi-sport athlete has to do is communicate with her coach regarding her other sport. Please remember however that playing time in tournaments is earned by performance in practice.