

# TRYOUT DATES ANNOUNCED

# 2016

## Delta Region High Performance

2015 CAMP PARTICIPANTS



### TRYOUT DATES FOR DELTA REGION HP CAMP SELECTION

**February 19 in Fayetteville**

**February 26 in (TBD-hoping for Conway)**

**March 18 in Little Rock**

**April 1 in Olive Branch, MS**

**April 8 in Hot Springs**



2/4/2016





February 2016

## 2016 Delta Region High Performance News

Tryout dates for the 2016 Delta Region High Performance Camp have been released. Only five tryouts will be held this season for the 72 spots available for camp. Due to the overwhelming response we had at some of our tryouts last season, each tryout will be limited to a certain number of athletes dependent upon the number of evaluators we have working & the court space available. We encourage athletes to attend a tryout at their earliest convenience and not wait until the Hot Springs tryout—because there are limited spots and you might not get in! In addition, new this season, *athletes may only participate in one tryout*. Rationale: In the past, we have seen very little rating differences from those athletes that attended more than one tryout. This is a waste of the parent's time/money and should allow additional athletes to participate in an environment where evaluators can have adequate time to see all athletes during the tryout process.

### Dates and location set for this year's tryouts are:

- February 19: Fayetteville, AR at the AAO Center
- February 26: Conway, AR (*this is the only location/date not confirmed yet. If we do not get a facility in Conway in which to hold the tryout we will re-schedule for another city and date-should know soon*)
- March 18: Little Rock, AR at the Statehouse Center
- April 1: Olive Branch, MS at the MVA Training Facility
- April 8: Hot Springs, AR at the Hot Springs Convention Center

### **Registration is only open for the February 19<sup>th</sup> tryout in Fayetteville at this time. Others will open soon!**

If a player is interested in trying out in Fayetteville, they will need to pre-register by Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 10am (unless the tryout is full). To register for the tryout: Log into their USAV Member account and then click on Region Clinics/ Region HP Tryouts (*do not click on USAV HP Camp & Tryout— that is for the national HP programs*). A non-refundable tryout fee of \$20 must be paid when registering. Rationale: the \$20 tryout fee helps to subsidize some of the expenses of the tryouts. Registration will be limited on a first come basis. If the tryout is listed as "closed", this means we have reached our maximum number of participants for that particular tryout. You will need to register for another tryout.

The Delta Region HP Program includes players in three age groups that are based on the birth year of the athlete. These age groups are determined by an athlete's year of birth using mandatory international criteria. Athletes may only try out and play in their own age group—there is no "playing up." \*Boys are invited to try out for the Future Select division

### TRYOUT TIMES FOR THE FAYETTEVILLE TRYOUT—times may be adjusted depending on number of participants in each age division:

5:00-6:30: Boys & Girls' Future Select-\*Boys & Girls born in 2004 and 2005 or later

6:30-8:00: Girls' Select- Girls born in 2002 and 2003

8:00-9:30: Girls' Youth- Girls born in 2000 and 2001 (or current sophomore born in 1999)

In order to be considered for the 2016 Delta Region HP Camp, candidates must attend a Delta Region HP Tryout. Not all who tryout will be selected for the camp. Only the top 72 athletes *from all of the tryouts* will be selected to attend the camp. **Note:** Players will receive limited coaching at the HP tryout >coaches are there for evaluating only!



## LEAD COACHES ANNOUNCED FOR DELTA HIGH PERFORMANCE CAMP

Lead Coaches are chosen for the Delta Region High Performance Camp each year to head up the coaching staff for the different ages of the camp. These Lead Coaches help to coordinate the training sessions for the camp and oversee the coaching staff. We have been blessed each year with quality Lead Coaches—which also helps us attract a strong college coaching staff that are not only looking for recruits but are also wanting to learn more about the game.



### Girls' Youth Division HP Lead Coach DAVID REHR, ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

We are proud to announce the return of David Rehr as the Lead Coach of our Youth Division. Coach Rehr led the Arkansas State Volleyball team to a regular season ranking of 24<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the AVCA Coaches Poll. This is the first time in school history for the volleyball team to receive a National ranking. Other accolades for Coach Rehr include:

- Regular season ending RPI of 16<sup>th</sup> in the country.
- Completed the 2015 Season with a record of 28-2.
- 2015 Undefeated Sunbelt Conference Champions
- 2015 Sunbelt Conference Tournament Champions
- 12 Athletes recognized for Academic Achievements by the Sunbelt Conference.
- Recipients of the AVCA Team Academic Award (Cumulative GPA above a 3.3)
- Combined Team GPA of 3.6
- 5 Players recognized as Sunbelt All Conference including the Setter, Defensive, and Freshman of the Year.
- 4 Players recognized as AVCA-All Region one of which named an Honorable Mention All-American.
- Head Coach David Rehr named AVCA Region Coach Of the Year as well as Conference Coach Of The Year.



### Girls' Select Division HP Lead Coach JASON WATSON, UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

The Delta Region is excited to say “Welcome Back” to Jason Watson, the recently hired Head Coach of the Arkansas Razorback Volleyball Team. A former resident (and friend) of the Delta Region during his stint at Arkansas State University, Coach Watson is a proven winner and is a tremendous leader in the sport of volleyball. Watson has served as a head coach for the past 11 seasons, including the past eight seasons at Arizona State University (ASU). In 2015, he led the Sun Devils to the NCAA Tournament for the fourth consecutive season. In his 11 years combined as a head coach at BYU and ASU, Watson has earned 200 wins and led his teams to seven NCAA Tournament berths. We are thrilled to have Coach Watson not only in our region but as a Lead Coach for the Select Division of the Delta Region HP Camp. Be Warned: A native of Homebush, Australia, Coach Watson doesn’t quite sound like us good southerners—but, we will work on that! Players are guaranteed to learn a *bloody* lot from Coach Watson! We are *rapped* that he is joining our HP Camp Staff!



## Future Select Division HP Lead Coach JUSTIN DEE, BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY

Anyone that has been around the Delta Region HP Camp is familiar with our Lead Coach of the Future Select Division, Justin Dee. Returning by popular demand, Coach Dee enters his 8<sup>th</sup> year as the Lead Coach for our younger, up-in-coming athletes. Coach Dee is in his third season as Head Volleyball coach at Belhaven University in Jackson, MS. Over his first two seasons, Dee has rebuilt the Blazers squad and accumulated 21 victories, improving each season. Dee spent the 2012 season at Buchholz High School in Gainesville, Florida where his team was a semifinalist in the 7A Florida playoffs. Prior to arriving at Buchholz High School, Dee coached at Briarwood Christian School in Birmingham, Ala, leading the team to second and third place finishes in the state playoffs. Dee was named the 2009 Birmingham News Coach of the Year. Dee is no stranger to the collegiate game or the NAIA, having spent time at Lyon College (AR) and Simpson College (CA). Dee coached at Lyon from 2004 through the 2007 and led the Scots to their first ever NAIA Regional Tournament berth. During his stint at Simpson, Dee was twice named NCCAA West Region Coach of the Year and posted third and fifth place finishes in the NCCAA Nationals. Always a camp favorite, Coach Dee brings a wealth of volleyball knowledge as well as energy to our camp. We are thrilled to have him back as a Lead Coach!

### ADDITIONAL COACHES FOR THE DELTA REGION HP CAMP

Coaches selected to work the Delta Region High Performance camp include current college and top club coaches from across the nation. All Delta Region HP coaches are experienced, knowledgeable, and highly-trained teachers of the game of volleyball. Already committed to being at the camp are coaches from Mississippi State, University of Central Arkansas, Missouri Southern, Eastern Illinois University, Arkansas Tech, University of Memphis, , Lyon College, University of Arkansas/Pine Bluff, Hendrix University, Stephens College, Bethel University, Jackson State & John Brown University... just to name a few.

### PURPOSE AND MISSION OF THE DELTA REGION HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

The Delta Region High Performance Program is designed for players who have been identified as having the potential to travel up the USA Volleyball Athlete Pipeline as their careers progress and is a regional branch of USA Volleyball's National HP Program.

The Delta Region host an Invitational High Performance (HP) Camp each May for the top athletes in the region, ages 12-16. The Delta Region HP Camp is operated to provide junior athletes with high-level training and skill development with some of the top coaches in the region and country. The Delta Region HP Camp is a 2-day training camp that includes sustained athlete training that is consistent with USAV National criteria and standards.

Throughout the season, athletes are given an opportunity to try-out for one of the 72 spots offered for the invitational camp. Only those that receive invitations through the tryout process may attend the camp. The region strives to keep the number of athletes on one court to a minimum of twelve (we hold the camp in a 6-court facility). The number chosen per age group will be determined by the quality and quantity of the athletes trying out. In the 2015 camp, (*numbers reported incorrectly in last newsletter-oops*) twenty-seven were chosen from the Future Select group; twenty-nine from the Select group; and twenty-seven from the Youth group. Until the tryout process is completed we are not sure of the exact amount for each age group. Last year's camp included 35 college and elite-level coaches working the camp. That's a pretty good ratio; player versus coach!



## WHY ARE OLDER PLAYERS NOT INVITED TO THE CAMP?

Through much discussion, it has been decided to only offer the camp to athletes up to the age of 16 (and/or that are in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and below). It was determined that the older athletes (juniors and seniors) have many more opportunities for training. Plus, focusing on our younger athletes will not only strengthen their personal skill level, but will also increase the level of play within the Delta Region for years to come.

## SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FUTURE SELECT PARTICIPANTS

Future Select participants will be expected to tryout using a *regular volleyball* (not a volley-lite), the net will be higher than they play on in the regular season – 7'4 1/8", and they *will not be allowed to step in to serve*. These are the standards set by the National HP Program. **Registered boys may try out for the Future Select Division.**

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND PROJECTED FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

The 2016 Delta Region High Performance 2-day Camp will be held at the Don Owens Center in Conway, Ar. The camp will be held Saturday, May 28 thru Sunday, May 29. Yes, I know this is Memorial Weekend--but, due to the restrictions of our D1 coaches during their dead period—this was the only date we could schedule in order to allow them to attend. Registration for the camp will continue to remain at \$185, which must be paid at time of registration. A registration link for the camp will be provided at time of selection. Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodations.

## SCHEDULE FOR THE CAMP

### Saturday, May 28:

Check-in 8-8:30am

1st session: 8:30-12:00

2nd session: 2:00-5:00

3rd session: 6:00-9:00

### Sunday, May 29:

Worship Service: 8:00 (optional)

Roll Call at 8:30

1st session: 8:30-12:00

2nd session: 1:30-3:30

Awards Presented: 3:30-4:30

## DECISION PRIORITY

At times, athletes or their families believe that the athlete should have been invited to attend the Delta Region HP Camp. Please remember that there are multiple evaluators at Delta Region HP tryouts, which means that HP Directors received feedback from a number of coaches on each athlete in order to determine program placement. Tryout evaluations are combined from all tryouts from each age group and then players are ranked based on overall skill, positional skill, athleticism, and potential. Delta Region HP evaluators typically work tryouts at a number of locations across the region and are experts at volleyball evaluation. Many athletes who try out for the Delta Region High Performance Program are all-stars on their school teams, the top player on their club teams, and top point scorers on any team on which they play – High Performance is competitive, which is one of the things that make the program so special.

## CAMP SELECTION WILL BE POSTED TO THE DELTA REGION WEBSITE

Camp selection will be posted on the Delta Region website at [www.deltavolleyball.net](http://www.deltavolleyball.net) under the HP tab **on Monday, April 18 (no decisions will be made until all tryouts are completed)**. It is the responsibility of the athlete to check the Delta Region website to determine if an invitation to attend the camp has been made. The athlete will have until **April**

**25 at 4:00PM** to accept the invitation and submit the \$185 camp fee. If the invitation is not accepted by the deadline, the athlete will lose their spot for the camp and the invitation will be issued to another athlete. There will be no refunds issued after the April 25th deadline. As such, these invitations are extremely time-sensitive – **YOU WILL ONLY HAVE UNTIL 4:00PM on April 25 to REGISTER BEFORE YOUR SPOT IS GIVEN AWAY TO ANOTHER ATHLETE.**

If invited to attend this year's HP Camp, please be sure to pay attention to the instructions on how to register and the applicable deadline. Once the deadline has passed for your invitation, you will lose the opportunity to attend the program and another athlete will be invited.

## **ALTERNATE INVITATIONS**

At times, someone issued an invitation does not accept. In this case an alternate athlete will be contacted to fill the open spot. Alternate athletes who are issued an invitation will need to register online for their spot **within 48 hours**. It is essential that anyone who is notified of being an alternate attend to the posted deadlines so as not to lose an opportunity. In addition, all invitations from the alternate list are made by e-mail only, so be sure to register for tryouts with a valid e-mail and check that e-mail daily after tryout results posting.

## **NO INVITATION TO THE DELTA REGION HP CAMP?**

Delta Region High Performance works to advance volleyball talent and build a broad and strong pipeline of athlete and coaches for our USA Olympic Teams. While Delta Region HP strives to allow as many athletes the opportunity to participate as possible, unfortunately not every athlete will be afforded an opportunity for that particular year.

Understand that athletes who attend Delta Region High Performance tryouts are, on the whole, a more advanced group of volleyball players than one finds at junior high, high school, or club volleyball tryouts. Most athletes who try out for Delta Region HP are seasoned club players; every player has made the decision to take the time to try out; and most all have made the decision that the opportunity to play volleyball at a higher level is something that they desire. Delta Region High Performance Programs showcase the most competitive volleyball in the region, and unfortunately not every athlete will have the opportunity to play in a given year.

Athletes who do not make a program should not be discouraged. Delta Region HP values highly hard work, determination, and improvement over time. Every year is a new tryout year and Delta Region HP looks forward to athletes trying out in the following year and working to make a program. In the meantime, athletes who do not make Delta Region HP Program should contact their club for camps local to their geographical area. There are excellent camps being operated in all parts of the country – your club director can help with identifying a great place to train over the summer.



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