



2018 SEASON TESTIMONIALS

Hugh McCutcheon - University of MN Women's Volleyball Coach, Former Men's & Women's USA/Olympic Volleyball Coach

"With 38 teams competing from 22 schools, it's fair to say that the inaugural Minnesota Boys High School Volleyball season far exceeded any of our expectations. The response was phenomenal.

As momentum builds, and our numbers continue to grow, it's important to remember that the female and male versions of our sport help each other immensely. There are very few sports that can say that. Without question, having a boys volleyball team will help your girls team - and vice versa."

Walt Weaver - MN Hall of Fame Coach & MN Boys High School Volleyball Association Director

"The inaugural Minnesota Boys' high school season was a huge success by any standard and we are now in preparation for season two to be held in Spring of 2019.

I cannot tell you how excited I am by what I saw last season. I was at several matches at several sites and the level of excitement and passion I witnessed was shocking. A highlight was a match between Farmington and Lakeville South at South. The stands were full with fans, the National Anthem played, we had introductions of players and a highly contested match with boisterous fans on both sides. I knew then that nothing would stop this mission now, and that someday I would be sitting at the Xcel watching the Boys High School State Volleyball Championship."



TESTIMONIALS

Russ Reetz, Prior Lake Athletic Director

“Prior Lake High School added two levels of Boys Volleyball this Spring. Don’t let logistics or facilities be an excuse. This can work for everyone. We chose to practice from 5-7PM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the Spring. We did host some Sunday practices as well so practice would not conflict with spring sport practices. We may also try morning practices in the future.

I see three options for ADs that hope to get Boys Volleyball going in their schools. You can request additional staffing from your school board, etc. The fees collected from participants can be adjusted to offset district costs. This is the option I chose at PLHS. We were able to hire two coaches, purchase a uniform shirt and pay league fees from revenue generated from our participation fees.

Another option would be inviting an outside entity (likely a Coaches LLC or Booster Club) to use the facilities and run the program as an independent provider. In essence, the kids would register through a non-profit. The district would provide facilities and the opportunity to earn a varsity letter award.

A third option would be to ask your community education department to administer the program and hire the coach. Each option requires a little bit of work up front for ADs, but once you determine the structure for support and arrange facilities for practices and games, the AD has very little to worry about during the season. The League takes care of scheduling games and assigning officials. I hired a site supervisor to help set up game days and greet the officials and visiting teams.

Our boys had a fantastic experience, improved in the sport tremendously and took pride in starting this sport in Minnesota.”



John Janke, Shakopee Athletic Director

"The spring 2018 Boys Volleyball season was fantastic. With the hard work of many, the season was a huge success providing many participants a new opportunity to play a sport they had only done in Phy Ed. class in the past.

Coaches, parents and kids all worked together to benefit the kids participating and the program as a whole. To see the development from the beginning to the end of the season was quite remarkable. Providing another opportunity for kids to participate is wonderful. I can only hope the kids had as much fun as those around them did watching them compete and develop."

Steve Willingham, Lakeville South Volleyball Coach

"Hey there HS volleyball colleagues -- If you are nervous about the time and effort it will take to begin a boys volleyball program at your high school, you are not alone. I WAS NERVOUS TOO!!

Planning and putting a boys program in place was much easier than I imagined. The heavy lifting has already been done by the Minnesota Boys HS Volleyball Association (MBHSVBA) and USA Volleyball North Country Region (USA Volleyball - NCR). There's a simple, turn-key roadmap for setting up and sustaining a new boys volleyball program, and it's already been built and road tested. It includes ideas for generating interest, liability insurance, recruiting athletes and coaches, a budget that works, and a year-long off-season, pre-season, and in-season calendar that makes sense.

It was not predicted, but we were overwhelmed with interest at our school. We set up a table at lunch on a Tuesday, and left with 100+ names and cell numbers of interested athletes. More than thirty players show up for our open gyms. We were easily able to put together a JV and varsity team. Many people stepped up to help. Our AD was 100% supportive, along with our spring coaches and parents.

There were challenges, not the least of which was finding time in the gym in our facilities to train and compete. As expected, we did have gym cancellations, last minute conflicts, and bad weather. The good news is none of those were deal breakers. We've been nothing but impressed with our athletes, their families, our spring coaches, and our administration in their flexibility in making it happen.

My recommendation is to start thinking about boys volleyball today! What an awesome opportunity to grow the stature and participation level of this great sport. #thisishappening"



Adam VanOort, Kasson-Mantorville Volleyball Coach

“Being the only out-state team in the league presented some challenges, especially with respect to travel, but by the end of the season everyone involved (coaches, players, parents) was happy we had the opportunity and made the commitment to play.

I was a bit concerned we weren’t going to find enough boys willing to play. In Minnesota, and especially out-state MN, volleyball is considered only as a “girls” sport because most people have never seen guys play so I didn’t know if that perception would negatively affect our ability to get enough players or not. We put information on the school announcements and then I set up a sign-up table over lunch in the high school one day. I had about 25 boys sign up to get more information, and in the end 10 boys made the commitment. I am expecting more interest in the coming years as awareness of boys volleyball grows.

One of my biggest surprises of the entire experience was how much the boys ended up loving volleyball. They absolutely couldn’t get enough. That was the most fulfilling part of the entire experience. We did host one competition where Shakopee and Lakeville South came to play us. It was AWESOME! We almost filled our gym and had more fans than a lot of our girls matches. The boys really enjoyed that!

Overall, the experience was fantastic and the every one of the boys was glad that they played. It would be wonderful to be able to expand the number of teams, especially in Southeast Minnesota so that we could have our own conference to cut down on the travel, but I can tell you for a fact that all returning underclassmen will be excited to play again even if we have to travel as much as we did last year. That’s how much they loved to play.”

Isaac Van Wert, Minneapolis Boys Volleyball Player – 2018 Senior

“I want to thank my coach and the league for all that you taught me about volleyball! This league gave me the opportunity to develop my skills and grow as a volleyball player. I started with very little experience and improved drastically throughout the season. I was able to compete at a higher level and make the Air Force Club Volleyball Team my Freshman year. I wouldn’t have had a shot without my coach or high school team!