



JVA December Club of the Month



Sports Performance Volleyball Club
Great Lakes Center
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For those who have been in and around the club volleyball scene, the name "Sports Performance" is to club volleyball like Nike is to sports apparel. Founded in 1981 by Rick Butler, this Chicago based volleyball club has set the precedent for clubs not only in the U.S., but internationally as well. In its first year, SPVB began with two teams, and today the club has 60 girls' teams and 10 boys' teams, and also has partner relationships with other clubs to bring the total to approximately 100 teams under the SPVB umbrella.

Sports Performance has stood by its motto "A Commitment To Excellence" by focusing on long term athlete development with an emphasis on individual skill training in preparation to play and compete at the collegiate level. SPVB has been a consistent leader in the club volleyball industry, and supports the JVA model because its leadership feels a linear approach to each season is not only the best way to develop the volleyball athlete, but is definitely the most cost effective as well.



[The Great Lakes Center](#), built in 2003, is the home of Sports Performance Volleyball Club, and is where year-round volleyball activity takes place. The original facility, built in 1990, had 4 courts within an estimated 20,000 square feet and, at that time, was the first volleyball facility in the United States built from the ground up. In 2003 GLV Inc. purchased five acres in Aurora, Illinois and a new 60,000 square foot state of the art facility was built that includes eight courts that sit on top of three layers of plywood and 36,000 pieces of rubber. The rubber is intended to provide a softer playing surface to help prevent injury and long-term wear and tear on the athlete's body, while also helping player recovery after a long weekend tournament.

The Great Lakes Center includes the following:

- Full time retail store that includes apparel, team wear, accessories & educational videos.
- Full service weight training facility.
- Full service training room.
- Large concession area.
- 10,000 square foot mezzanine viewing area overseeing all eight courts.
- Parking for 300+ cars.



GLV Inc. has evolved into an extensive volleyball business providing a full spectrum of services to the volleyball community that includes the following:

- America's largest camp & clinic program.
- GLV Inc manages the Sports Performance (Aurora, IL), and Sports Elite (Barrington, IL) Volleyball Clubs and is a 50% partner with the Team Sting Volleyball Club (Birmingham, AL). GLV Inc also provides technical development and coach education programs for Club Kace (Chicago, IL) as well as working with numerous clubs around the United States on a consulting basis.
- Youth development programs including "VolleyTots" & "MiniVolleyball" to expose the sport of volleyball to the 5-10 year old age level.
- Home of the Great Lakes Power League.
- Home to numerous leagues and tournaments for all ages and levels of play.
- Recruiting video services for athletes pursuing a collegiate scholarship.
- Full service consulting to assist volleyball organizations in developing short and long term planning to ensure a successful business model.

In 2010 the SPVB boys' club program had 110 athletes with a total of 11 teams. In 2011, just one year later, it has grown to 150 players and 14 teams ranging from grade school to high school level athletes. SPVB offers a summer boys program directly following their high school season for players not in the club in order to encourage the growth of boys' volleyball. In 2010 this summer league program had 70 athletes comprised of 7 teams, and to follow suit, in 2011 it grew to 100 athletes and 9 teams. At this rate, by 2013 SPVB might need to build its own facility just for boys' volleyball!



Today Sports Performance Volleyball Club continues to find ways to grow and impact more of the volleyball community. It has become the one-stop-shop for volleyball training and development, tournaments, recruiting, coaching education, apparel, and anything else related to the growth of this sport.

SPVB's Commitment To Excellence

- 68 AAU / JVA / USAV Age Group National Championships
- 8 USAV 18 Open National Championships
- 12 USAV 18 Open Final Appearances
- 19 USAV 18 Open Medals
- 83-0 The 2008 18 Elite team is the only team in Jr. Volleyball History to record an undefeated season
- 125 consecutive match winning (2007-2009) by 18 Elite is the longest in Junior Volleyball History
- 515 Alumni have graduated to play collegiate volleyball
- 208 Universities and Colleges Attended By SPVB Alumni
- 102 Alumni to Big Ten Universities

Interested in nominating your club for JVA Club of the Month? [Here's how.](#)