



Club development is important for all volleyball clubs from schools clubs, community clubs to University clubs. It ensures a stable club for the future and helps attract and keep people in the sport of volleyball.

This Guidance Note has been produced to help Universities increase participation and develop their club.

Club Development & Increasing Participation

- A good club will help attract new members, not all club members will be able to play in the first team, however it is always important to have a pool of players who meet and play regularly in case of injuries etc... (strength in depth)
- Universities will tend to fund clubs who are well developed and can attract a large amount of members, they may even look more generously when offering sports hall time out.
- A good club should always have a committee; which includes a chair, secretary and treasurer- you can include other roles within the committee such as social secretary, club development officer, marketing officer, captains. The committee will make decision for the benefit and on behalf of the club and should hold regular meetings and communicate well with each other.
- It is important to ensure that you can meet as many peoples needs as possible- from recreational players to BUCS players. It's not always possible, but it is important to run a recreational/ social session where beginners and social players can attend and train and if they want can work towards becoming good enough for the teams.
- There are other competitions available for players in the club other than BUCS. Those who do not make the BUCS team- could they play in the local league, in the student cup or could the club organise a tournament style training session on the last session of every month to ensure everyone gets a chance to play competitively no matter what level it is at.
- Is your club friendly and welcoming to new members? A good strong club welcomes all players of all abilities. If you have socials etc.. make sure they are 'club' socials rather than 'team' socials. The beginners and recreational players are just as important in maintaining a strong club as your top team players and it makes for a great club atmosphere and helps towards retaining the current members you have.
- Market your club throughout the year- not just in freshers week. Be inventive- you could hold fancy dress 'come & try it' sessions when club numbers start to fall. Keep active updates on facebook/ email/ text or with posters or a newsletter.
- Build a relationship with your AU/ SU or sports development department at your University. Tell them how successful your club is- if they know who you are and how strong your volleyball club is they may look more favorably at the volleyball club when issuing funding and allocating court time.

FAQs

Our club doesn't get enough court time.

Most University volleyball clubs throughout England all have this issue- not enough court time. Whilst there is not an instant solution there are ways you can maximize what you have

- Do you split your session men/ women or recreational/ team training- this ensures more structure sessions with equal abilities
- Have you asked you AU/ SU for more court time- there may be availability on weekends or in mornings
- Do you link with you local community club- there is a possibility of signposting members to local training sessions

What do I do if I only have 1 court and lots of players?

This is usually the case around the beginning of the year- there are some key steps you can take to ensure the club can cope with the large amount of students and still have a fun session-

- Be organised- write a session plan of what activities/ drills will take place in that session- ensure the drills cater to a large number of people. Don't be scared to use a smaller sided version of the game 2v2, 3v3- you can get at least 2 games running on 1 volleyball court and ensure players are rotating regularly.
- Ensure your club members are supporting these sessions- the first 4-5 volleyball sessions will tend to be very busy- therefore the more club members you have the more time they can spend with potential new members.
- It is inevitable that with a large number of students at a session they won't be on court or participating all of the time- is there any exercises off court they could be doing- volleying against the walls, helping feed/ collect balls, watching/ learning/ mentoring from other players who are playing, exercises to help towards fitness, jump test. If possible try to ensure that everyone is doing something, this alleviates the feeling of boredom or not being part of the session.
- Ensure you always record the number of players you had at these sessions and report back to you AU/ SU- this way they understand that volleyball may need more court time.

How do we get more funding?

It is difficult for all sports clubs who are trying to compete with one another to gain funding from their University- there are other options available for clubs-

- BUCS offer Universities the chance to apply for money through their 'Volleyball Development Fund'- if there is something specific the club needs development for i.e. referee/ coaching a grant may be offered to the University club
- Fund raising- this is a great way to get the whole club involved in something fun! Think of ways the club can raise money- through raffles, cake stalls, fancy dress come & try it festival etc...
- Local sponsors- are there local businesses that may sponsor your club in return for advertising? Even if the sponsorship is not a grant, it could be prizes for competitions or help towards marketing?

For more information or any questions relating to Higher Education volleyball, please contact Zoe Hughes- z.hughes@volleyballengland.org