

RIVALS VOLLEYBALL CLUB

Experienced Coaches – Reasonably Priced

Grace Nelson/Samantha Boever: U-12 Team Co-Coaches

Grace and Samantha both play volleyball for the Eastern Washington University women's volleyball team. Both have come through strong club programs and worked with young players through camps and clinics for many years and will bring energy and enthusiasm to this team.

Jacob Roberts: U-13 Team Coach

Jacob joins Rivals this year after watching his daughter compete with the Rivals U12 team last year. Jacob played football at Central Washington University and most recently competed with the Spokane Slugs men's volleyball team in 2018, travelling to USAV Nationals in Dallas, TX. He competes regularly in adult tournaments in the area, including Spike & Dig and Sizzler and has coached volleyball and other sports over the last 5 years.

Lauren Nissen: U-13/14 Team Coach

This will be Lauren's eighth year coaching club volleyball and seventh as head coach. She has been in the competitive volleyball world as a player and coach for over 19 years and continues to play in adult leagues throughout the year. Lauren is a strong believer in not only ensuring her players are strong in the fundamentals of volleyball but also growing these young women to their full potential, on and off the court. Lauren lives in Spokane and is the Operations Manager for Innovia Foundation.

Abbie Younkin: U-15 Team Coach

Abbie joins Rivals this year as a new member to the community. She played volleyball collegiately in Iowa as a libero and setter, but after a career ending knee injury, she moved to Seattle to finish out college at Seattle Pacific University. She coached a 14s team for 206 Volleyball and was an assistant for ITVC for three years while finishing out her Biochemistry degree. She still plays actively in adult tournaments and is working on her Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration before pursuing a career as a Physician's Assistant. Abbie lives in Spokane and works for Providence Medical Group.

Dan Kilgore: U-15/16 Team Coach

Dan played collegiate club volleyball for both Western Washington University and Eastern Washington University as a setter, right side hitter and libero. He continues to compete regularly in adult tournaments including 21 years at Spike & Dig. He has coached club volleyball at the U15-16 level in 9 of the last 11 years for VIP, Splash, Apex and Rivals. Dan lives in Spokane and is a 5th grade teacher at Snowdon Elementary.

Jacob Pruitt: U-17/18 Team Coach

Jacob grew up in San Diego, Ca playing his high school volleyball at Steele Canyon HS. He played his college volleyball at Grossmont Junior College. He began coaching after college with Monte Vista HS, then as an assistant to Laramie County CC. He has coached club volleyball for the last 9 years in the U14, U16 and U18 age groups, coaching with CPA and Rivals. Jacob's teams have won numerous tournaments during that time. Jacob is currently a coach for Gonzaga's Womens Volleyball team.

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- Why do we love volleyball?

It requires all the athleticism of any other sport. It is a true team sport that allows for players with different skill sets. For young players, it is one sport that they can compete in for years and years to come. Competitive volleyball doesn't end at high school graduation. No other sport is played so many places in the world with so many options. You can play indoors, outdoors, on grass, sand and the hardcourt. You can play women's, men's and co-ed, 2, 3, 4 or 6 and more on the court. To love the sport of volleyball is to find a lifelong activity. That's why we love volleyball!

- We believe in the well-rounded athlete. Our club will work to be flexible with our athletes other interests whether they be academic or athletic as long as each family communicates with the coaching staff at the earliest possible point about conflicts with team activities.
- We are driven to be convenient and cost conscious. These are the two most important factors that keep young players and their families from participating in club volleyball. Our expenses will be transparent and shared with our families throughout the season.
- As coaches we strive to be positive, encouraging, consistent, and patient while maintaining high expectations for all our players all the time. We expect punctuality, a positive attitude, teamwork and good sportsmanship. We expect each member to strive to do what is best for the team, while also helping our team improve and grow.