

What to expect when you're a parent of a RRHS Volleyball player

Written in 2009, by Stevie Harvey

This guide is intended to give you an overview of a typical year in the life of a Volleyball family at RRHS.

The most important thing to know is that it's fun. It's rewarding. It's great to see the girls go from freshmen to seniors – not only does their skill level increase, but they grow into young ladies (believe it or not!) and we not only witness the transformation, but also are a part of their growth.

I am sure I missed some things and that there are errors within this document. My whole reason for doing this is to provide as much information as I can to the newer parents / players. I found myself going along for the ride my first year and because of that didn't participate as much as I could have and should have. Hopefully this helps.

This first page is a synopsis of events for which the coaches will ask for you and/or your child's participation. Read the rest of the document for details (which team/teams participate, what the costs typically are, who does what, etc.).

- ❖ Feb. – May – Spring Series volleyball
- ❖ March – fundraiser at the state basketball tournament
- ❖ April – Coach Manz's Coaches' Clinic
- ❖ June – Speed camp, Pre-season tournaments
- ❖ July – Excel camp, Pre-season tournaments, UNM Team Camp
- ❖ August – Team poster fund-raiser, RRHS Jamboree, Try-outs, El Paso Tournament, C-Team Tournament, Annual T-shirt design
- ❖ September – Out of State Tournament, JV Team Tournament, Regularly scheduled games
- ❖ October – Regularly scheduled games, Volley for the Cure, Senior Night,
- ❖ November – District Game(s), STATE games.
- ❖ December – Banquet

Throughout the year check the website: <http://critical.unm.edu> for news, information, etc.

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❖ March

- Fundraiser: New Mexico High School state basketball tournament @ the UNM Pit: usher at the 'pit level'
 - Parents, friends, relatives are asked to participate by volunteering their time in 4 hour blocks for about 4 days, throughout the day and evening
 - Coaches decide where the money earned goes – in the past it has been a substantial amount and is used to reduce the cost per player for a camp and/or tournament.

❖ Feb. – May

- Spring Series: practices and tournaments held at Rio Rancho HS on Sundays
 - Younger players may choose to participate
 - Practices are typically twice a week for an hour – can be longer, but RRHS volleyball coaches cannot coach the girls that are in the grades that could be on their teams. (They can't coach girls in grades 8 – 12.)
 - Older players are encouraged to help by coaching the younger kids.

❖ April

- Coaches' Clinic: held at RRHS, hosted by Manz
 - Parents: needed to help with sign-up, registration at the door, and to help set up for lunch – sometimes it's a potluck, in which case parents provide food, etc.
 - Players: needed to help demonstrate for guest coaches; times vary, but typically several players are needed all day both days.

❖ June

- Speed Camp starts – early evenings, 3 times a week
- Open gym – after speed camp, usually 2 times a week
- Summer tournaments
 - Usually 2 tournaments, typically 1 ½ or 2 days on Friday & Saturday early in June
 - ◆ (Del Norte has hosted the 1 ½ day one; NM Games is a 2-day – sometimes RRHS hosts)
 - if RR hosts, the players will have to be available to set up and take down the nets and clean up the gym each night
 - Parents – since we are not able to do concessions any more, we don't. Which means no food for anyone, and also means no money generated for the team?
- ***Sometimes speed camp continues into July
- Players:
 - Seniors make Tee Shirts (3 per player) for the Out-of-state (Colorado) Tournament(s) in July
 - ◆ Tee shirts:
 - ◆ Usually collect about \$25.00 per player

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❖ July

- Excel Team Camp (in 2009: July 8 – 11)
 - The girls are coached as a team and by position throughout the duration of the camp. They do team-building throughout and end with a skit competition on the last day.
 - Parents: Try to make the skit competition, at least!
 - Cost may be reduced for our girls with some of the money from the March fundraiser. (2009 cost was \$130.00 per player).
 - Rio Rancho had 2 teams there in 2009.
 - Other participants include other HS teams from NM and AZ – large and small schools.
 - This is a tough camp. The girls are really pushed hard and learn a lot.
- Colorado Tournament(s): (2009: Cherry Creek Tournaments – 2 of them: July 13-16 and July 18 & 19)
 - (2008 the team went to Strasburg for 3 days to a small school tournament instead of the first Cherry Creek tournament and they went to University of Northern Colorado for a big tournament after Strasburg)
 - Manz plans sleeping accommodations for the team and coaches
 - ◆ Occasionally can make them for parents, but only if he has an absolute commitment at the time he makes them – he uses Priceline or Hotwire or Orbitz, so he has limited flexibility. He will let parents know where they are staying and encourage them to stay in the same hotel, but he can't guarantee price or availability.
 - Parents:
 - ◆ Rides, money, coolers, support
 - Usually 10 players go. This means 10 players need rides. The more parents who are able to go, the better. Typically players who were on Varsity the previous year are invited, along with 1 or 2 players who are potential varsity players.
 - Coaches CANNOT drive players.
 - The parents who do go, are put in the position of being responsible for buying food, water, Gatorade, etc. for the girls on the tournament and play days, running around to stores with or without the girls when someone forgets something, and generally making sure everyone is fed and safe.
 - Load and pack kids and their belongings.
 - Help make sure no one is left behind.
 - Bond with other parents.
 - \$\$: depends on previous fundraisers (2009: \$150.00 per person for tournament fees, \$21.00 per player for Water Park ticket).
 - Players:
 - ◆ Represent Rio Rancho High School
 - ◆ Play hard and learn to play as a team; Get to know your teammates
 - ◆ Have fun!
- UNM Team Camp – usually JV-aged players

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❖ August

- Sponsor Poster:
 - 2009 donation is \$125.00 per business card
 - Each player is expected to get at least 1 sponsor and try to get 2.
 - Each business gets a full-sized poster with pictures of the 3 teams, the game schedule, and all business cards. The business is announced as a supporter of RRHS Volleyball and thanked, at one of the home games.
- RRHS Jamboree – Aug. 7 & 8
 - Players will have to be available to set up and take down the nets and clean up the gym each night
 - Parents – since we are not able to do concessions any more, we don't. This means no food for anyone, and also means no money generated for the team.
- Teams are selected
 - Pre-Season Jamboree – Aug. 15 – place TBD (did not happen in 2009)
- Parent meeting(s)
 - Always need a team parent – someone willing to be an organizer and liaison between the coaches and the rest of the parents
 - THANK YOU for volunteering.
 - Be sure to get the coach's and other parent's telephone numbers and e-mail addresses!!
This is your lifeline!
- West Texas Tournament of Champions – El Paso, TX – Aug. 28 & 29, 2009
 - Varsity girls – usually ride on a bus
 - Hotel arrangements are made by coaches
 - Parents who go:
 - Cooler
 - Hotel accommodations are made on their own
- C-Team Tournament – Aug. 28 & 29, 2009
 - JV calls lines and scores (Friday they are let out of school to participate)
- Parents
 - Design, take orders for, print, deliver the annual tee-shirt
 - Primarily to show our Rio Rancho Team Spirit!!

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❖ September

- Out of State Tournament (Varsity)
 - 2008 they went to La Jolla
 - 2009: Nike Tournament of Champions, Phoenix, AZ – Sep 16 – 20
 - Air travel for team and coaches is arranged by Manz
 - Parents will need to arrange their own
 - Hotel accommodations for team and coaches is arranged by Manz
 - Parents will need to arrange their own
 - Parents
 - Cooler
 - \$\$ for food
- JV Team Tournament – Sep. 18 & 19, 2009
 - C-Team calls lines and scores (Friday they are let out of school to participate)
- Regularly scheduled matches
 - Usually T & Th
 - Occasionally on Saturday
 - Home Games:
 - VARSITY:
 - ◆ Team dinners before matches @ home – sign up
 - Some are at players' homes; some are at restaurants (Dion's, etc.)
 - Family pays or cooks
 - JV & C-Team – Team dinner plans TBD and discussed by your coach
 - There will be team dinners.
 - Away Games:
 - Coolers for away games – mostly for the ride to the game then the ride home, if it a long ride (e.g., Gallup, Las Cruces)
 - Sometimes coaches give the girls \$\$ and they stop at a fast food restaurant after the games. BUT, the coolers are important because it's a LONG time to wait to eat.

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❖ October

- Volley for the Cure Match – Oct. 17 alternating between La Cueva and RRHS. 2009, @ La Cueva.
 - Parents, coaches, players from ALL teams participate – **this is a lot of work**
 - Planning
 - Fund-raising
 - Decorations (if at RRHS)
 - Activities during the match (if at RRHS)
 - Tee Shirt design, printing, distribution, sales
 - Collaborate with La Cueva
 - Donations
 - EVERYONE needs to plan to participate
- Regularly scheduled matches
- Players:
 - Senior night
 - Varsity Underclasswomen make t-shirts for Senior night
 - ◆ Better to start early in Oct. instead of waiting to the last minute
 - Make posters for the Seniors, etc. (some done by Jr. Varsity & C-team)

❖ November

- District
 - Make posters – All Teams, but mostly JV and C-team
- **STATE:**
 - **VARSITY**
 - Dinners, activities, etc – planning by Manz, with parent participation (we have a meeting)
 - Parents
 - ◆ Ready to go at a moment's notice – keep up with the plan by attending meeting and always check e-mail and the website
 - ◆ Gifts to be put on and in lockers
 - ◆ T-shirt design, order, print – usually designed by a senior player's parent
 - This has to happen FAST, so it would be good to have the t-shirt design folks ready!
 - JV & C-Team players and parents – plan on going to the games (on your own) – to be the best fans at the tournament!!!

❖ December – Banquet

- Cooperation, discussion amongst all teams parents to put together the banquet
- Typically need to get gift bag items, print pictures, etc.
- Coaches gifts
- Team Mom / Dad gifts
- Decorating the hall – always need help on the day of the banquet