

8/18/17

Today, the Oregon Volleyball Academy (OVA) and North Pacific Juniors (NPJ) announced they are combining to form the largest volleyball club in the Columbia Empire Volleyball Region. NPJ will be lead on the merger and will now have two bases of operations, one in Bend serving all of Central Oregon, and one in Salem serving Salem, Portland and the greater Willamette Valley. OVA will merge under the NPJ umbrella and OVA's staff, coaches and players will now be affiliated with NPJ. OVA is expected to cease operations before the end of the year.

Turner Waskom, Executive Director of OVA, stated, "We are very excited about this merger. The combined resources of NPJ and OVA, both of whom have been identified as one of the top clubs in the region and northwest, will make for a fun atmosphere for the players and families of both clubs. It will also allow the ability to bring the most up-to-date and current coaching techniques to all of our players."

Waskom specifically cites the combination of having Adam Ellis and Mike Gee (both of NPJ) and JJ Riley (a recent addition to the OVA staff) as a key component of this merger. Waskom notes that Mike Gee is currently coaching the USA Youth National Team, currently at a tournament in Brazil, and JJ Riley is a former coach at Pepperdine, USC, and Utah and was most recently was the head coach at Montana State before leaving to help lead this merger. Waskom also noted, "All three of them bring a National-level coaching accreditation and reputation with them and we can now provide an unmatched ability to connect players with college recruiters from across the country. In addition, we also have the ability to speak with one voice as all three of them can be present at practices and tournaments assisting the staff/players and creating a fun atmosphere where players of all abilities can learn and improve."

Adam Ellis added, "We are humbled to be able to partner with OVA and expand on their volleyball offerings in Central Oregon. We will not only offer the same travel, local and academy level programming that OVA has been a leader with, but we have now been able to enter the top 16's and 14's from Bend into some additional and very prestigious national-level tournaments. We will also offer additional volleyball camps in the spring, summer and fall as well as increasing the beach volleyball offerings."

For more information, please visit [www.npjvolleyball.com](http://www.npjvolleyball.com) or contact NPJ Club Director Adam Ellis at [npjvolleyballclub@comcast.net](mailto:npjvolleyballclub@comcast.net) or 541-908-0536