

Proposal to Add Boys Volleyball to Allen County Scottsville High School Athletics Program

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Introduction

In response to the growing interest and demand for boys' volleyball, I am proposing the addition of a boys' volleyball team to Allen County Scottsville's athletics program. This initiative will provide students with an exciting new opportunity to engage in a competitive, team-oriented sport while promoting physical fitness, school spirit, and inclusivity. The addition of boys' volleyball not only benefits current students, but it also serves as a stepping stone for future student-athletes who may seek to continue their volleyball careers at the collegiate level.

Current Trends in Boys Volleyball

Boys volleyball has become one of the fastest-growing sports at both the high school and collegiate levels in the United States. The number of high school boys playing volleyball has increased by over 20% in the past decade, and many states are expanding their opportunities for male athletes in the sport. Kentucky, in particular, has seen increased interest in boys' volleyball, with several high schools and college programs offering competitive volleyball opportunities. However, an addition at this time would put us in the original flight of programs and allow the growth of the program to be advanced in comparison to other local schools.

Boys volleyball promotes teamwork, leadership, and discipline, all while offering a thrilling and fast-paced athletic experience. As many students are drawn to sports like basketball, soccer, and football, adding volleyball to the list of athletic options allows students with diverse interests and skill sets to find their niche. It also provides a positive outlet for physical fitness and helps to build strong school communities through support and engagement.

Objectives of the Proposal

1. **Create Competitive Opportunities for Boys:** By establishing a boys' volleyball team, we provide male students with an additional opportunity to participate in high school athletics.
2. **Increase Student Engagement:** Offering a new and exciting team sport will increase student engagement, foster school spirit, and generate excitement within the student body. We had 103 students attend an interest meeting with 63 reporting that they have legitimate interest in trying out for the prospective team in the spring.
3. **Prepare Students for Collegiate Opportunities:** Boys' volleyball programs at colleges and universities are on the rise, and having a strong high school team will give students the chance to play at the collegiate level.

Opportunities at the Collegiate Level

Kentucky is home to several collegiate programs that offer boys' volleyball opportunities. These programs include:

- University of Kentucky and University of Louisville: UK and UofL both has a strong club volleyball program for men, which competes in regional and national competitions. Their men's volleyball team provides an excellent platform for athletes to continue their volleyball careers at a higher level.
- Campbellsville University: CU has a men's volleyball program as part of their athletics offerings. As a NAIA program, this provides a competitive route for male athletes pursuing volleyball at the collegiate level while still staying close to home
- Georgetown College: Georgetown College has a men's volleyball program as part of their athletics offerings. As a NAIA program, this provides a competitive route for male athletes pursuing volleyball at the collegiate level

Benefits to ACSHS and the Community

1. Inclusive Athletics: Expanding the athletic offerings to include boys' volleyball fosters inclusivity and provides students with greater options to find their athletic passion. This is especially important in a school environment that strives to offer equal opportunities for all genders.
2. Increased School Recognition: As volleyball continues to grow in popularity, having a successful boys' volleyball team will enhance the school's reputation and increase visibility both within the community and in interscholastic competitions.
3. Student Development: Volleyball is a sport that emphasizes agility, strategic thinking, and teamwork. Students who participate will develop physical and mental skills that extend beyond the court, helping them succeed in other aspects of their academic and personal lives.
4. Community and Alumni Engagement: A boys' volleyball program could attract more alumni and community members to games, strengthening school-community relationships and building school spirit.

Financial and Logistical Considerations

The initial costs associated with adding boys' volleyball to the athletics program will include:

- **Coaching Staff:** A qualified coach will be needed to guide the team and develop training programs.
 - We would need at least one paid position this spring to be able to start with a varsity team. Two paid positions would be better in preparing for the future and potential growth of the sport. Numbers would be similar to our soccer program. Coaching Stipend of \$2,000 for Head Coach and \$1,000 for Assistant = **\$3,000**

- **Equipment:** The purchase of volleyballs, nets, and other training equipment is not as needed as they will use the same equipment as the girls team.
 - Uniforms would be a cost to start up. Each uniform (top and bottom) would cost near \$75 a piece. For 15 students, this cost would most nearly be **\$1,125**
- **Facility Use:** Ensuring the gymnasium is adequately scheduled for practices and games, which may require coordination with other athletic teams and events.
- **Travel:** Most matches would be scheduled as weekend multimatch opportunities and Non-transport via parents could be used. The estimated cost for using a bus in each of these scenarios would be nearest **\$1,600.**

TOTAL ESTIMATED STARTUP COST: \$5,725

However, the long-term benefits far outweigh the costs, including the potential for revenue generation through ticket sales, fundraising events, and community sponsorships. Many volleyball teams at the high school level also participate in tournaments, which provide additional exposure for the program and opportunities for growth.

Conclusion

The addition of a boys' volleyball program at ACSHS will provide male students with a valuable and exciting athletic opportunity, support their personal and physical development, and help to cultivate a stronger, more engaged school community. With the increasing availability of collegiate programs in Kentucky, this initiative will also provide students with pathways to continue their volleyball careers at the next level. I strongly recommend moving forward with the establishment of a boys' volleyball team and look forward to working with school administrators, coaches, and the athletic department to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

Cameron Cook

Assistant Athletic Director and Girls Volleyball Coach

