

Dear Readers,

As parents, legal guardians, friends, family members, we sometimes question the additional expense, time and sacrifice when our children are participating in sports. This article brings new perspectives and reasons to the Ultimate Sacrifice of being The Ultimate Parent, Coach, and Fan to our children. At what cost one might ask? I would answer, "It's Priceless"! No value can be put on the experience and development of a child when it comes to the total impact sports has on family value and the support system. When a young student athlete chooses to involve him or herself in sports they learn so much more than athletic skills. They learn about the Game of Life! And so does the parent, through the eyes and chapters of their own child!

This article is a MUST READ and an experience that I have personally shared with my own daughter who I love more than anything. What I would do for her has also come at an ultimate cost not trading the experience for anything in the world but learning to embrace what life and sports has to offer. For what I have experienced as a Father, cost now has no value! It's a memory and experience of a Lifetime that will always give birth. I hope you enjoy this article spoken through the heart and words of a Father.

Dan Cross
Founder

Why I Won't Pay For Club Volleyball-
Jeffrey Kerns, E.d.D.

"To My Daughter Allie,

Why I don't Pay for Club Volleyball:

During a recent dinner one of my friends asked, "Why do you pay so much for club volleyball? Below is a summary of my answer, I wanted you to know what I really "pay" for and what I hope you gain from these experiences. The truth is I never intend to pay for club volleyball.

I pay to assure that you pushed beyond your perceived limits. I pay professional coaches to challenge you at every practice and match. I pay them to push and challenge you to the point where you might want to quit because it is so tough. I pay them to build up your confidence at the same time so you don't. I pay them to coach you in volleyball because I understand that your self-assurance on the court transcends to your everyday life. I pay for you to learn how to set goals and chase down dreams. I pay your coaches to help install a high level of self-confidence that you can and will accomplish the goals you set for yourself. I pay so you have more caring and responsible adults involved in your life. I pay for the days when you

arrive at home exhausted from school and you don't really want to go to position training/weights/plyo-metics, but you do it anyway. I pay for the life lessons that losses, frustrations, and disappointment from competition can provide. I pay for life lessons, victories, and personal/team accomplishments that competition can provide. I pay for these opportunities because I do not have to push or force you to play volleyball, rather your desire to play is unequivocally intrinsic.

I pay for you to have opportunities to take pride in your actions on and off the court. I pay for you to be accountable to others (coaches, teammates, club directors) and to help you understand that you are not the center of the universe. I pay for the opportunity for you to honor your teammates and coaches by always giving your best effort on and off the court. I pay for you to have the leadership opportunities volleyball offers. I pay to provide opportunities for you to help everyone around you improve as a person and teammate. I pay for you to understand that you will forever be surrounded by more talented people and less talented people, and that a true leader has the humility and patience to work with both. I pay for you, my daughter, to learn that it is the accumulation of hours upon hours of practice combined with numerous personal sacrifices to be an overnight success.

No it is not club volleyball that I am paying for, I am paying for the time and conversation with a teenage girl on the way to and from practice. I pay for the smiles and sense of purpose that playing club volleyball provides you. I pay to provide lifelong memories from traveling and going to new places with me. I pay for you to experience new cultures, foods, and cities that we experience by traveling to tournaments. I pay because its clear that volleyball sparks your life, passion, and sense of pride. I pay for help in guiding you down the right path. I pay because club volleyball reinforces the life lessons about hope, compassion, hard work, and commitment to yourself and others, that your mom and I have taught you, and continue to model for you.

Most importantly I pay for the bridge of understanding that volleyball provides a father and daughter.

Love always,
Dad"

- Inspired by posting from Shad Martin

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