



## John Olfert 2025 Coaching Bio

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In younger years, John played at MBCI, on various club teams, and with the University of Winnipeg – and also caught the coaching bug with the opportunity to coach at the junior high and college levels. John then took a 10-year break from volleyball focusing time and energy on career and family, before re-entering Manitoba's volleyball community when his children began playing. He has since coached thirteen years of school and club volleyball teams, ranging from 13U to 17U – both boys and girls teams.

Beyond being part of and observing notable skill and team development, coaching hi-lites have included:

- Serving as a Head Coach for the Winnipeg team(s) that competed in the Manitoba Games – where the two Winnipeg teams finished first and second respectively.
- Being awarded the Volleyball Manitoba *Mary Jean England Coach of the Year* award.
- Journeying with his teams to be competitive at both provincial and national championships – and in a multiple circumstances winning and medaling at provincial and national (Tier 1) club volleyball championships.
- Working with young athletes in their early years of play and then following their playing careers through school and club volleyball – and in many cases advance to university and college play.
- As time has passed, the new best thing is entering a gym years later to see players from years past now coaching the next generation of young players.

John is Certified Advanced Development Coach and continues to mature and grow as a coach through seminars, observation and speaking with mentor coaches. John is looking forward to his 12<sup>th</sup> season with the Winman Volleyball Club, working with Coach Amy Johnston to coach/guide a 15U girls team.

Beyond coaching, John is a professional accountant by training, and works at True North Sports + Entertainment, and is active in the community serving on several boards. Board involvement included 6 years on the Volleyball Manitoba Board (4 years as Treasurer and 1 year as President), and currently serves on the board of U SPORTS.

John and his wife Brenda have four children, two of whom are married – and starting to have families of their own.

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*"I have been blessed to have played with, be coached by and now work with fellow coaches that have taught me both the technical skills of the game, and more importantly the life skills that result from playing and competing in Manitoba's volleyball community. It is a treat to now share some of those skills with young athletes, and experience new life lessons that each team and season bring."*