



## **The Broken Model of Female Sports in the US – Why KnockOut Volleyball is Creating Change**

The model of female sports is completely broken in the US today, and nowhere else is it more noticeable than in volleyball. In the current system, the only means for girls to gain a real competitive edge is to join “clubs” that can cost as much as \$7,000 per athlete. In Austin, the average cost is \$4,000. This leaves out more than 50% of our population who simply cannot afford these clubs, and the girls lose interest when they play against others who have received club training—it is common to see games as lopsided as 25-2 when 7<sup>th</sup> graders play each other, and one team is largely club trained.

Volleyball is the most popular girls sport in America and a great teaching tool for personal growth. This game teaches players to be good teammates and how to think about the group as a whole, not just as individuals. Even better, players learn to be happy for one another’s successes because they see how it benefits the team overall.

There must be a change in the way clubs are structured—from how much athletes and families pay to how much the coaches get paid. There is too much at stake for the girls who are left out simply because they come from a lower socio-economic standing.

Today, a handful of clubs have realized this change and have made a huge push to turn the model on its head. One of these clubs is local Knockout Volleyball—it is the first to introduce sliding scale rates to its players. In just one season, Knockout Volleyball has brought on nearly 200 girls entering more than 100 tournaments who would never have been able to join clubs and compete on a level necessary to get college scholarships. The families have seen their young girls completely change their focus on school and build desires for college—where previously none existed—building confidence, community and connections that were never part of their life before.

Recently, one of the top professional volleyball players in the world—Haley Eckerman—stepped forward to become the spokesperson for Knockout Volleyball. It was only through scholarship that she had the opportunity to play at a young age. That’s why she believes in our mission. Now, we need you to step forward as well, to help this mission grow and succeed. Please consider becoming a sponsor of this wonderful organization.

Every dollar helps.

Please visit our donation page below to choose an option that works best for you.

<http://www.knockoutvolleyball.org/donate/>



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