

**Sean Gritzman**  
**Top Flight Volleyball Club**  
**Elgin (IL)**

**Describe your experience in the volleyball industry, including any volunteer leadership experience, such as board, committees, offices, etc.**

I have been involved with coaching the sport of volleyball for the past 23 years. During this time I've seen the evolution of our sport along with its direct impact to our youth. For the past ten years I've run and operated Top Flight Volleyball out of Elgin IL. I built this club from scratch starting with 90 kids and now ten years later we train on average 2,000 kids annually in our programs.

I served as a board member in our region (GL) for many years finding ways to help promote and grow volleyball memberships in our areas. During this time I received a Meritorious Service Award for Outstanding Achievement from the region. I volunteer time with our local Boys Club, Girls Club and Girls Scouts of America providing alternate program options for their members. A very small way to help give back to our local community outreach programs.

I continue to work with the smaller schools in our area to help raise necessary funds so their athletic department can continue and run all of their different athletic programs (not just volleyball). This has worked very well and many of the schools that were on the verge of cutting programs were able to not only keep their programs but were able to purchase new equipment and update their facilities.

I believe the biggest impact with our youth is the coach and player experience. I run annual coaching clinics open to the public and free of charge. I've been doing this for over six years to help provide an educational path for those looking for continued growth. Many of the younger elementary, middle school and high school coaches have taken advantage of this and taken away valuable information which they might not have known previously. The hope is they are able to provide better coaching and player experiences.

My career background is in the information technology industry where I have nearly 25 years of experience. I've leveraged this experience to help gather information, sort through data and overall provide a platform to help disseminate information directly to whoever is looking for it. It's important to understand how technology is changing the way we interact with our young athletes as well as their parents and guardians. This space is constantly changing but is integral in socialization of what's happening and why.

**If nominated and elected to serve, which areas would you feel you could make the greatest contribution?**

One of my largest contributions would be to help provide strategic planning and analytics of current trends. I have a very good acumen of not only looking at the ""now"" but also

forecasting the near future as well as long term. These are critical to laying the foundation of growth and continued on-going success.

I will also help to figure out how we can continue to grow the sport for all ages and genders. I believe there is a reason the athletes love volleyball and understanding the ""what's & why's"" is paramount in establishing a model for continued growth.

One of my passions is enabling players to participate. I would spend quite a bit of time helping to expand the ability of all kids to be involved not just those who can afford to play. There are so many players I wish could experience the sport but are just unable to for a myriad of different reasons. I believe there is a solution to be found and will help to determine what this is. Any athlete who wants to learn should be afforded the right to do so albeit of their social or economic status.

**What personal qualities will you bring to the Board?**

I'm extremely detailed oriented and I bring that mindset to any project I work. I believe success is found in getting the details correct so the whole of a solution is more valuable.

I am extremely organized and task driven. I do not believe in procrastinating but rather complete what's needed now and start planning on what's next.

I truly believe there is quite a bit of opportunity to grow the sport beyond what it is today. I think the JVA has done an absolutely wonderful job since its inception and am excited to see what the next few years brings. I would love the opportunity to help by being a board member.