

Aquila Volleyball and Starlings Volleyball, USA, a 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit collaborate to enrich the Volleyball Community in Northern California

Marin County, California (December 22, 2023) – Starlings Volleyball, USA, a program that provides quality club volleyball to girls from under-resourced communities, has a new partner, Aquila Volleyball Club.

Aquila Volleyball Club aims to collaborate with the Starlings Organization through clinics, coaching resources, donations, and other fundraising initiatives to support Starlings' mission in Northern California. Discussions are underway to create a unique and supportive partnership in Northern California and beyond.

Aquila, founded by former USC All-American John Hedlund, and current Director of Volleyball Operations at San Domenico School, is new to the Junior Club Volleyball scene, while Starlings Volleyball has been serving girls for 27 years. Starlings was founded in 1996 by two-time volleyball Olympian Kim Oden – currently Chair of the Starlings Board of Directors – and the late Byron Shewman, former USA national volleyball player. Starlings Volleyball is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit and believes that every girl deserves the opportunity to play club volleyball, regardless of socioeconomic background, race or ethnicity, or level of play.

Aquila Volleyball is quickly becoming a presence in Marin County, dedicated to creating an environment that fosters athletic and personal growth, camaraderie, and a lifelong appreciation for the sport. Like Starlings, Aquila wants to create opportunities for all girls that have a dream to play volleyball, and part of that opportunity is the chance to give back and support other players in the Starlings program. Starlings' dues, if any, are a fraction of most junior club costs, with the goal that no girl is turned away because of inability to pay. The Starlings organization relies on donations and sponsorships to fulfill its mission.

The Aquila Volleyball Club was started just a few weeks ago, due to the overwhelming demand for players who did not join one of the 3 current clubs in Marin. "Numerous players and parents reached out and encouraged me to start a new club. The fact that the typical club tryouts had passed, I was unsure how many players would attend our assessment, let alone how many players would be available. The turnout was amazing, with over 80+ players in attendance. We now have 5 teams in various age groups that will compete in the NCVA Girls League in 2024. Next year, we will expand our assessments and subsequent invitations to all interested players in Northern California. In addition, Aquila will be establishing its Boy's indoor program in 2024 and an expansive beach volleyball club program (Boys and Girls) that will commence in the Spring of 2024 at the new beach court facilities at San Domenico School in Marin.

Starlings Volleyball has exploded in recent years, and now serves 3,500+ girls, from 75 clubs, in 26 states across the country. Because of this growth, Starlings is looking for new partners to help with increasing financial need for the Starlings players.

"Starlings is excited to partner with Aquila and appreciates this newly formed collaboration." Starlings Executive Director Megan Kennedy said. "Our organizations are different, yet so similar, based on the goals and values we both promote, and the impact on young girls in the communities we serve. Beyond competition on the court, this partnership with Aquila Volleyball is a great example of how we can achieve more by working together."

Kim Oden added, "The Starlings Organization is thrilled to partner with Aquila Volleyball Club. We believe that the two clubs share a core message of inclusivity and are both aiming for excellence. It is truly a bonus to be in collaboration with John Hedlund, who is a pillar in the volleyball world and a very accomplished person. I have no doubt that John's club volleyball vision will be very beneficial to the Marin community."

John shared his support for the partnership, “Starlings’ mission aligns with what we want to achieve at Aquila, both volleyball and character player development. Not only providing exceptional volleyball opportunities with experienced coaching and facilities, but also the opportunities for players and parents to contribute to ‘giving back’ to their sport and their communities.”

To [DONATE](#) or learn more about Starlings Volleyball, USA, go to www.Starlings.org

More information about Aquila Volleyball Club in Marin County, California can be found at www.aquilavb.com

About Starlings Volleyball, USA

Starlings Volleyball, USA, a 501(c)3 nonprofit with a mission to positively impact the lives of at-risk girls through the sport of volleyball, believes every girl deserves the opportunity to play club volleyball, regardless of socioeconomic background or level of play. The Vision for Starlings Volleyball, USA is to provide girls in under-resourced communities with equal access to quality volleyball programs, regardless of financial hardship, ethnicity, or skill level through exposure to training and participation in the sport of volleyball. Starlings uses the platform of the sport to empower within each player academic excellence, healthy lifestyle choices and excellent character.

For more information contact: Megan Kennedy, Executive Director – Starlings Volleyball
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About Aquila Volleyball Club

Located in Marin County, Aquila Volleyball Club is a vibrant community of talented athletes in Northern California who share a common love for volleyball. We are dedicated to creating a club environment for both Girls and Boys that fosters growth, camaraderie, and a lifelong appreciation for the sport. Whether you're a beginner with dreams of spiking your first ball or a seasoned player aiming for college scholarships, our club offers a range of programs designed to meet your needs, both indoor and on the beach.

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