



PRESS RELEASE

Jenna Hinton selected as AVCA 12U Coach of the Year



Morrisville, NC, July 26, 2018: The [American Volleyball Coaches Association](http://www.avca.org) (AVCA) announced its Club award winners and Triangle's Jenna Hinton was chosen as the *12s Club Coach of the Year*.

Hinton coaches Triangle 12 Black, a transitional 12s team that primarily plays at the 13s level except at national qualifiers and national championships where they play in 12 Open. In 2018, 12 Black assembled a 28-19 record, finishing tied for 7th at Big South and tied for 17th at AAU Junior National Championships. Hinton is also the lead coach of Triangle's 12 and under program which blossomed to seven teams in 2018, the largest in Triangle's history.

"I am ecstatic that the AVCA has recognized Jenna's contributions to our 12s program," stated Sherry Fadool, Triangle's Executive Director. "A prestigious organization such as the AVCA looks specifically for coaches who go above and beyond in their commitment to sport. Jenna Hinton's contribution to our successful 12s and youth programs are extensive, but she also works tirelessly to make sport accessible to individuals with limited or no access to sport through sitting volleyball and numerous other service initiatives," Fadool added.

Hinton serves as Triangle's primary advocate and programming director for their "Volleyball for All" initiatives. "Volleyball for All" nurtures diversity and inclusion in sport by offering opportunities to those with disabilities. She started Triangle's monthly sitting volleyball program in 2010 and has expanded it to include multiple sessions each month with veterans through partnerships with the Durham VA Medical Center and Bridge II Sports (a Paralympic sport club). Hinton has served as the designated sitting volleyball sport chair for the annual Southeast Region Valor Games since its inception in 2013. Her efforts led to Triangle introducing their first-ever, all-veteran, competitive sitting volleyball team in 2018.

Also in 2018, Hinton established a partnership with Gigi's Playhouse, a Down's Syndrome Achievement Center. Adults and youth with Down's Syndrome attend camps and clinics designed to keep them active and support a healthy lifestyle. Hinton is currently working with Gigi's Playhouse to bring on board Triangle's first "Gigi's intern".

Hinton is a USAV CAP II level coach and IMPACT instructor. She was the inaugural recipient of Triangle's Sam Casey Caram Excellence in Coaching Award and received USAV's Robert L. Lindsey Meritorious Service Award in 2008. She was a presenting speaker at the 2013 USA Paralympic Conference in Colorado Springs and, in that same year, received the USA Volleyball Junior Club Director of the Year award. In 2014 Hinton was recognized locally with the Raleigh Sports Council's John Freehafer Sports Volunteer of the Year award.

Hinton has coached at the collegiate, high school and club level. When asked about her future coaching goals she stated, "I do not aspire to work with older, more-skilled athletes. Most of all, I enjoy 'teaching' volleyball. Watching young athletes grow, learn, and develop is truly rewarding for me and when I experience the greatest sense of accomplishment. My goal is to remain with the youngest athletes but to continue to push our expectations of what these less experienced players can achieve; to continue pushing the limits."

Hinton continued, “another goal is to continue to work toward expanding greater diversity in our sport. There are still many communities that have little or zero accessibility to sports like volleyball. Some examples are those individuals with physical and/or cognitive challenges and also those who face socio-economic obstacles that prevent them from taking part in team sports like volleyball. I plan to continue to advocate for these individuals and to continue to create opportunities for them to participate and experience volleyball in our community.”

Triangle Volleyball Club, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was founded in 2002 and is dedicated to ‘educating the whole person through excellence in the sport of volleyball.’ *Triangle* is equally committed to growing the sport of volleyball in North Carolina and has expanded its programs and offerings, leading the way for NC junior girls’ volleyball. *Triangle Volleyball Club* is a member of the Carolina Region of USA Volleyball, the national volleyball organization of the U.S. Olympic program, Junior Volleyball Association [JVA], American Volleyball Coaches Association [AVCA], National Council of Youth Sports, Mid-Atlantic Power League [MAPL], and a designated partner with Bridge II Sports Paralympic Sports Club. Links: trianglevolleyball.org, usavolleyball.org, carolinaregionvb.org, www.avca.org, jvaonline.org, ncys.org, maplvb.com, bridge2sports.org.