

# Volleyball Trainer by Scott Brenneisen

United States Patent Nos. 5,913,739 6,672,979

## THE NEED

One of the skills used in playing the game of volleyball is spiking. The art of spiking involves one player (a setter) projecting the ball into the air while another player (a hitter) strikes the ball forward and downward over the net into the opposing team's court. Spiking can be examined in three basic steps, the approach, jump, and swing. The approach often involves complicated footwork enabling a hitter to put his/her body in the most desirable position for contact of the ball. The jump involves planting both feet on the ground at the same time while rotating the arms backward then forward in a lunging motion to achieve maximum vertical leap. The swing will desirably contact the projected ball at the peak of one's jump with his/her arm fully extended while snapping the wrist over the top with sufficient force to cause the ball to spin forward and downward with great velocity. These three steps, coupled with the variable of projecting or setting the ball, are very difficult to learn. Consequently, it is beneficial to isolate the setting of the ball, allowing the hitter to concentrate and focus on the approach, jump, and swing. Hence, a need exists to suspend a volleyball in the air for practicing the art of spiking. A ball-suspending device must not compromise the hitter's safety (hands and/or fingers) and it should simulate actual play (be releaseable).

The above description is taken straight from my patents. To put it simply, what the batting tee is to baseball, my product is to volleyball.

## HOW IT WORKS

The Volleyball Trainer uses a magnetic volleyball releaseably suspended over the net. The ball can be reloaded in less than 10 seconds. The ball meets the National Federation of Scholastic High School Athletics (NFSHSA) specification. The frame is made of lightweight Aluminum tubing, is easy to set-up, and portable. It breaks down and fits into a durable carry bag with dimensions of 4.5 feet long by 1 foot wide. It can be mounted on a variety of pole sizes including wooden posts at beaches or parks. This product has been thoroughly tested and received extremely favorable reviews from both coaches and players.

## THE MARKET

The target market is high schools, youth programs, clubs, coaches, colleges, and even the individual player. I believe it can be made affordable enough for a single volleyball enthusiast. In the United States, volleyball is popular with both male and female participants of all ages. In fact, almost all high schools and colleges in the United States have female volleyball teams; and most regions of the country have developmental programs for all ages as well.

I also have developed a unique name and logo (not disclosed), and marketing campaign to position my product in the marketplace.

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