



Volleytech Academy – Mission and Partnership Approach

Mission Statement: It is the mission of Volleytech Academy (hereinafter “VTA”) to provide a positive, competitive youth volleyball experience for player, parent and coach. We emphasize long-term player development of physical, emotional and social skills. While winning is a priority in club volleyball, winning will not be placed above good sportsmanship and team work.

Competitive team athletics, by its very nature, creates situations where everyone may not be happy all the time. Team success is intimately linked to individual success. Each player will fill a necessary role on the team.

Research is clear that when parents and teachers work together a child tends to do better in school. There is no reason to think that it is any different in youth sports. The following are some guidelines for how parents will contribute to a Coach/Parent Partnership that will help the athlete have the best possible experience.

- ***Recognize the Commitment the Coach Has Made:*** Recognize that the coach has made a commitment that involves many hours of preparation beyond the hours spent at practices and games, and that he/she is not doing it because of the pay.
- ***Fill the Coach's Emotional Tank:*** When the coach is doing something you like, let he/she know about it. Coaching is a difficult job and most coaches only hear from parents when they want to complain about something.
- ***Don't Put the Player in the Middle:*** It is all too common for parents to share their disapproval of a coach with their children. This puts a young athlete in a bind. Divided loyalties do not make it easy for a child to do her best. Conversely, when parents support a coach, it is that much easier for the child to put her wholehearted effort into learning to play well. If you think your child's coach is not handling a situation well, schedule a meeting with the coach in which you can talk with him/her about it.
- ***Don't Give Instructions During a Game or Practice:*** You are not one of the coaches, so do not give your child instructions about how to play. It can be very confusing for a child to hear someone other than the coach yelling out instructions during a game.
- ***Fill Your Child's Emotional Tank:*** Perhaps the most important thing you can do is to be there for your child. Competitive sports are stressful to players and the last thing they need is a critic at home. Be a cheerleader for your child. Focus on the positive things she is doing and leave the correcting of mistakes to the coach. Let her know you support her without reservation regardless of how well she plays.
- ***Fill the Emotional Tanks of the Entire Team:*** Cheer for all of the players on the team. Tell each of them when you see them doing something well.
- ***Encourage Other Parents to Honor the Game:*** Don't show disrespect for the other team or the officials. But more than that, encourage other parents to also Honor the Game. If a parent of a player on your team begins to berate the official, gently say to them, "Hey, that's not honoring the Game. That's not the way we do things here."



Athlete & Parent Code of Conduct - Volleytech Academy

At all times, athletes, coaches and parents are expected to act in a first class manner and dress appropriately keeping in mind they are a member of a team and should act with high moral and social standards while representing VTA. Display good sportsmanship and respect towards competitors, parents and event staff at all times. The director (Melanie Wood) reserves the right to add rules as a situation demands.

Consequences are at the complete discretion of the coach with input from the director, and are based established below are:

1. Increased conditioning at practice	/	3. Dismissal from event
2. Reduced play time at tournament	/	4. Permanent dismissal from VTA

Player Guidelines – please avoid any infraction of these guidelines:

- Consumption of alcoholic beverages or being under the influence of alcohol.
- Consumption or under the influence of drugs, chewing tobacco or smoking material of any kind.
- No Visible “hickeys” or tattoos.
- Fraternizing with coaches, first offense is a verbal warning from club director and meeting with player and player’s parents.
- Profanity or behavior of any kind towards coaches, referees, opponents or members of their club.
- Cell phones will remain in the silent position during practice and can only be used AFTER the final team huddle. Cell phones are prohibited during tournaments.
- Players are expected to arrive fifteen minutes prior to practice start time and one hour prior to tournament start time, and be ready to participate and dressed in the appropriate attire.
- Players must notify their coach in advance as soon as they know they are going to be late or absent from a team function, excused absences are due to illness, injury, or death.

It is also important that the supporting members of the team (parents and coaches) conduct themselves in a manner demonstrating the same high standards.



Tournament Protocol for Players

- Find your court:
 - Dressed in full uniform prior to entering the gym with all belongings in team backpack.
 - Walk to their court together as a team, and locate a spot along a wall or under chairs to neatly place their backpacks together as a team.
- Restroom breaks:
 - May use the restrooms AFTER locating their court and placing their backpack.
 - Take at least one teammate or Team Chaperone with them to the restroom.
 - Tell their coach when they leave for and return from the restroom.
- Food: (Clean up all trash and crumbs after consuming food.)
 - Must eat a nutritious/low sugar lunch, packed in their backpack; with their team at the tournament facility and in an area specified by their coach.....parents are not to join. (No concession food until all player duties are finished for the day.)
 - Pack healthy snacks only and drink plenty of water throughout the day.
 - Clean up all trash and crumbs after consuming food.

Parents will pledge their cooperation as follows:

- Place the emotional & physical well-being of your child ahead of your personal desire to win.
- Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every practice and tournament.
- Insist your child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- Support coaches and officials working with your child to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- Demand a sports environment that is free of drugs, tobacco and alcohol and refrain from their use.
- Remember that the game is for young athletes and not adults.
- Treat others and ask your daughter to treat others with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
- Be a respectful fan, assisting with duties to help the club such as transportation and other responsibilities.
- Support your coach, team and daughter. At all times, be a supportive parent.



- **24 Hour Rule:** No parent may approach a coach or coaching staff with negative input until 24 hours after a competition is completed. At that point, a meeting can be arranged with the director, coach, parent and player to communicate concerns.
- Please do not take up court time talking with your athlete's coach. Do so after practice has ended. The coach is to be focused on the practice plan and on the court with their team!

General Guidelines for all:

Players, coaches and parents MUST familiarize themselves with general knowledge of USAV/AAU volleyball rules and regulations.

Players, parents and coaches are responsible for leaving all facilities, including practice facilities, in clean condition. Coolers will not be allowed in the facilities in which we play.

We need a positive commitment from coaches, players and parents!



Participation Agreement Terms - Volleytech Academy

Part 1 Conditions of Participation: I have read the enclosed information concerning the practices and policies of VTA. I agree, upon selection to a given team to participate in the 2021 Club season with VTA. At practices, there will be equal opportunity to participate, **however**, at tournaments, court time is **NOT** guaranteed, and will be determined by your coach.

By use of the facilities provided by VTA, the member agrees that VTA shall not be liable for any damages arising from personal injuries sustained by a member, parent, or guest on the premises of **any** VTA facility. VTA shall not be responsible for any loss or theft of personal property. Members assume full responsibility for any injuries, damages or losses which occur to any and all claims, damages, rights of action or causes from action, present or future, whether the same be known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, resulting from or arising out of the member or guests' use of intended use of the facilities or equipment provided.

Members agree that they are in good physical condition and that she has no disability, impairment or ailment that prevents her from engaging in activity or passive exercise that will be detrimental in any way to her health, safety, comfort or physical condition in which she participates. It is recommended that every athlete consult her own physician before beginning any exercise program with VTA.

Part 2 Tuition Fees: We accept membership for VTA on the designated team for the 2021 season and agree to pay the tuition fees in the amount identified for the team we are awarded: **\$2,600.00 Premier // \$2,400.00 Elite // \$1800.00 National // \$1,200 Comp.** A payment to VTA will be paid on the stated payment due dates for the balance owed. A \$30 late fee and \$50 returned check fee will be assessed per occurrence. IF a player does not pay their dues, they are not allowed to participate in practices or tournaments until their dues are paid.

Members will not be relieved of their financial obligations by reason of absence or withdrawal of the member from VTA or failure to attend practices or tournaments. **We understand that our daughter's club dues are not refundable if we choose not to participate. If we choose not to participate, and have not completed paying the club dues; we also understand we will be responsible for the remainder of the club dues.**



Dispute/Grievance Procedure

Volleytech Academy fully comprehends the value of parent involvement and encourages our parents to offer feedback whether positive or negative, but to do so in a respectful way. The below procedure is designed to help athletes and parents with questions, concerns, or problems that may occur during the course of the season. It ensures open and honest communication between all parties involved.

1. 24-hour rule: If the athlete or parent has a concern arising from a tournament or practice that needs to be addressed, they must wait at least 24 hours after the conclusion of the event to discuss the issue with the head coach. We trust that parents will be timely in communicating with coaches regarding potential issues that would distract that coach from their primary objective of coaching the team.
2. Don't approach the coach immediately prior to the start of practice, the coach must focus on the athletes' and the training required during practice.
3. The athlete must first ask for a meeting with the coach to discuss the issue at hand. In the case of players on 13's or younger teams, the parents may request the meeting, in which the athlete, parent and coach must be present.
4. If the issue is unresolved, the parents may ask for a meeting between themselves, the athlete, and the coach to discuss the issue. The meeting should take place at a location considered adequate for a private discussion agreed upon by both the parent and coach – NOT at a tournament and/or practice.
5. If the issue is still unresolved, the parent may ask for a meeting with the club director, the head coach, and the athlete. The meeting should take place at a location considered adequate for private discussion, agreed upon by the parent, coach, and director and during a scheduled time away from practice or a tournament is appropriate. The decision of the club director at this point is **FINAL**.

It is essential that our parents serve as a support system for our club, players and coaches. To ask this, we, as the club director, staff, and coaches need to be available to empower parents and athletes with information and ensure understanding. When all parties share time together, the potential conflict creates a greater opportunity to learn from each other different strategies in how all parties can communicate effectively and be more congruent in cultivating a positive experience for our athletes.

Volleytech Academy
Melanie D Wood-Director



Melanie Wood-Director

MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES

Covered Organizations/LAOs are required to implement the following athlete abuse prevention policies

To satisfy these requirements, USA Volleyball provides these policies to USAV member clubs. Clubs may choose to implement stricter standards.

SafeSport Club Policies

1. One-on-One Interactions, including meetings and individual training sessions (Clubs are required to establish reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions, as set forth in federal law)
2. Massages and rubdowns/athletic training modalities Locker rooms and changing areas
3. Social media and electronic communications
4. Local travel
5. Team travel

These policies shall apply to the following:

1. Adult members at a facility that is either partially or fully under the jurisdiction of a **FLORIDA REGION CLUB**
2. Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors
3. Any adult authorized by **FLORIDA REGION CLUB** that may have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor
4. Adult staff and board members of a **FLORIDA REGION CLUB**

(Collectively “Applicable Adult” for the purposes of this policy)

POLICY 1 - ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

Observable and interruptible: One-on-one interactions between a minor athlete and an Applicable Adult (who is not the minor’s legal guardian) at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of a **FLORIDA REGION CLUB** are permitted if they occur at an observable and interruptible distance by another adult.

One-on-one interactions between minor athletes and an Applicable Adult (who is not the minor’s legal guardian) at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of a Covered Organization/LAO are prohibited, except in the circumstances described in meetings with mental health care professionals and health care providers of this section and under emergency circumstances.



Meetings between Applicable Adults and minor athletes at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of a **FLORIDA REGION CLUB** may only occur if another adult is present, except under emergency circumstances. Such meetings must occur where interactions can be easily observed and at an interruptible distance from another adult.

If a one-on-one meeting takes place in an office at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of a **FLORIDA REGION CLUB**, the door to the office must remain unlocked and open. If available, it will occur in an office that has windows, with the windows, blinds, and/or curtains remaining open during the meeting.

Meetings with mental health care professionals and health care providers : If a mental health care professional and/or health care provider meets with minor athletes at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of **FLORIDA REGION CLUB**, a closed-door meeting may be permitted to protect patient privacy provided that:

The door remains unlocked and another adult is present at the facility.

The other adult is advised that a closed-door meeting is occurring written legal guardian consent is obtained in advance by the mental health care professional and/or health care provider, with a copy provided to the organization.

Individual training sessions: Individual training sessions between Applicable Adults and minor athletes are permitted at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of **FLORIDA REGION CLUB** if the training session is observable and interruptible by another adult. It is the responsibility of the Applicable Adult to obtain the written permission of the minor's legal guardian in advance of the individual training session if the individual training session is not observable and interruptible by another adult. Permission for individual training sessions must be obtained at least every six months. Parents, guardians, and other caretakers must be allowed to observe the training session.

POLICY 2 - MESSAGES AND RUBDOWNS/ATHLETIC TRAINING MODALITIES

Any massage or rubdown/athletic training modality performed at a facility or a training or competition venue under the jurisdiction of **FLORIDA REGION CLUB** must be conducted in an open and interruptible location. Any massage of a minor athlete must be done with at least one other adult present and must never be done with only the minor athlete and the person performing the massage or rubdown/athletic training modality in the room.

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS



Non-exclusive facility: If **FLORIDA REGION CLUB** uses a facility not fully under their jurisdiction (for, e.g., training or competition or similar events) and the facility is used by multiple constituents, Applicable Adults in categories 1 through 4 are nonetheless required

to adhere to the rules set forth herein. What are Applicable Adults in categories 1-4? Was that what was referenced in the beginning? If so, they would need to be numbered 1-4 for reference.

Use of recording devices: Use of any device's (including a cell phone's) recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras in locker rooms, changing areas, or similar spaces at a facility under the jurisdiction of **FLORIDA REGION CLUB** is prohibited. Exceptions may be made for media and championship celebrations, provided that such exceptions are approved by the **FLORIDA REGION CLUB** and two or more Applicable Adults are present.

Undress: Under no circumstances shall an unrelated Applicable Adult at a facility under the jurisdiction of **FLORIDA REGION CLUB** intentionally expose his or her breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a minor athlete.

One-on-one interactions: Except for athletes on the same team, at no time are unrelated Applicable Adults permitted to be alone with a minor athlete in a locker room or changing area when at a facility under the partial or full jurisdiction of **FLORIDA REGION CLUB** , except under emergency circumstances.

If **FLORIDA REGION CLUB** is using a facility that only has a single locker room or changing area, separate times will be designated for use by Applicable Adults, if any.

Monitoring: **FLORIDA REGION CLUB** will regularly and randomly monitor the use of locker rooms and changing areas at facilities under their jurisdiction to ensure compliance with these policies.

POLICY 3 - SOCIAL MEDIA & ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS
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As part of **FLORIDA REGION CLUB** emphasis on athlete safety, all electronic communications between a coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

Content: All electronic communication originating from Applicable Adults to minor athletes must be professional in nature.

Open and transparent: Absent emergency circumstances, if an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes needs to communicate directly with a minor athlete via



electronic communications (including social media), another Applicable Adult or the minor athlete's legal guardian will be copied.

If a minor athlete communicates to an Applicable Adult (with authority over the minor athlete) privately first, said Applicable Adult should respond to the minor athlete with a copy to another Applicable Adult or the minor athlete's legal guardian.

When an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes communicates electronically to the entire team, said Applicable Adult will copy another adult.

Minor athletes may "friend" the organization's official page.

Facebook, Myspace, blogs, and similar sites: Coaches may not have athletes of FLORIDA REGION CLUB's Team join a personal social media page. Athlete members and parents can friend the official FLORIDA REGION CLUB's Team page and coaches can communicate to athlete members through the site. All posts, messages, text, or media of any kind between coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities or for team-oriented motivational purposes.

Twitter, instant messaging and similar media: Coaches and athletes may "follow" each other. All posts between coach and athlete must be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

Email and similar/electronic communications: Athletes and coaches may use email to communicate. All email content between coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. Where the coach is a staff member and/or volunteer, email from a coach to any athlete should come from the club website email center (the coach's return email address will contain "@CLUB.com").

Texting and similar electronic communications: Texting is allowed between coaches and athletes. All texts between coach and athlete must be professional and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

Electronic imagery: From time to time, digital photos, videos of practice or competition, and other publicly obtainable images of the athlete – individually or in groups – may be taken. These photos and/or videos may be submitted to local, state or national publications, used in club videos, posted on club or club associated websites, or offered to the club families seasonally on disc or other electronic form. It is the default policy of FLORIDA REGION CLUB to allow such practices as long as the athlete or athletes are in public view and such imagery is both appropriate and in the best interest of the athlete and the club. Imagery must not be contrary to any rules as outlined in FLORIDA REGION CLUB's Participant Safety Handbook.



Request to discontinue all electronic communication or imagery: The parents or guardians of an athlete may request in writing that their child not be contacted by any form of electronic communication by coaches or Applicable Adults subject to this policy. (Photography or videography). The FLORIDA REGION CLUB will abide by any such request

that their minor athlete not be contacted via electronic communication, absent emergency circumstances.

Misconduct: Social media and electronic communications can also be used to commit misconduct (e.g., emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment, and hazing). Such communications by coaches, staff, volunteers, administrators, officials, parents or athletes will not be tolerated and are considered violations of our Participant Safety Handbook.

Violations: Violations of FLORIDA REGION CLUB’s Electronic Communications and Social Media Policy should be reported to your immediate supervisor, a FLORIDA REGION CLUB administrator or a member of FLORIDA REGION CLUB’s Participant Safety Committee for evaluation. Complaints and allegations will be addressed under FLORIDA REGION CLUB’s Disciplinary Rules and Procedure.

LOCAL TRAVEL & TEAM TRAVEL

This policy shall apply to:

1. Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors
2. Any adult authorized **FLORIDA REGION CLUB** to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor – This sentence doesn’t necessarily make sense
3. Adult staff and board members FLORIDA REGION CLUB

(Collectively “Applicable Adult” for the purposes of this policy)

POLICY 4 - LOCAL TRAVEL

Local travel consists of travel to training, practice, and competition that occurs locally and does not include coordinated overnight stay(s).

Transportation: Applicable Adults who are not also acting as a legal guardian, shall not ride in a vehicle alone with an unrelated minor athlete, absent emergency circumstances, and : must have at least two minor athletes or another adult at all times, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the minor athlete’s parent/legal guardian in advance of each local travel.

POLICY 5 - TEAM TRAVEL



Team travel is travel to a competition or other team activity that the organization plans and supervises.

Team/competition travel: When only one Applicable Adult and one minor athlete travel to a competition, the minor athlete must have his/her legal guardian's written permission in advance and for each competition to travel alone with said Applicable Adult.

Hotel Room: Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangements with a minor player. (Unless coach is the parent, guardian or sibling of the player) However, a parent/legal guardian may consent to such an arrangement in advance and in writing. Furthermore, a parent/legal guardian may consent in advance and in writing to the minor athlete sharing a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with an adult athlete

Coach or his/her designee will establish a curfew by when all players must be in their hotel rooms in a supervised location. Regular monitoring and curfew checks will be made to each room by at least two properly background screened adults. At no time should one adult be present in room with minor players, regardless of gender.

Team personnel should ask hotel to block adult pay per view channels.

Meetings: Meetings shall be conducted consistent with the **FLORIDA REGION CLUB** policy for one-on-one interactions

Individual meetings between coach and player may not occur in hotel sleeping rooms and must be held in public setting or with additional adults present with one of those adults being the same gender as the player.



Club Release Policy

If an athlete/family decides to depart **Volleytech Academy** during the respective season, the following steps must take place:

Release Policy:

STEP 1 - The athlete/family in question must submit a written request for release to the Club Director, **Melanie Wood** Volleytechacademy@gmail.com and to the Florida Region at registrar@FloridaVolleyball.org stating the reason for the request.

STEP 2 - Club will release the athlete immediately once the following item(s) have been completed:

1. Athlete returns all club gear provided to athlete this season.
2. Member must remit all financial obligations agreed upon contractually. Payment Option – Member pays full cost of season.

Transfer Policy: A player can represent only one club during the Season. A change in geographical location of the family due to a change in job, military, scholastic or inner-collegiate status may receive special consideration. No player may participate in different Qualifying events with different clubs/teams. Proof of residency must be provided by the family at the time of the release/transfer request.

Once an athlete has participated in a **National Qualifier Event (Regional or NQ)** they may not be released for the rest of the season to another club. Please refer to the USA Volleyball (USAV) Championship Manual on releases for athletes that participate in regional or national qualifying/bid events.

Parent Name (Print) _____

Parent Signature _____

Date: _____



Parent / Player Agreement

Undersigned has received and read, understood and agrees to abide by, and will cause family members and guests to abide by the rules and regulations of VolleyTech Academy as they now exist and as they may from time to time be amended or supplemented.

The laws of the state will govern this agreement. This supersedes all prior oral and written reorientations or communications between the parties and constitutes the entire understanding of the parties regarding the subject matter of this agreement and may only be modified or amended by a written supplement signed by both parties.

- √ I have read, understand, and agree to the terms of the Athlete & Parent Code of Conduct in their entirety.
- √ I have read, understand, and agree to the terms of the Participation Agreement in it's entirety.
- √ I have read and understand the Dispute/Grievance Procedure in it's entirety.
- √ I have read and understand the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies in their entirety.
- √ I have read and understand the Club Release Policy in it's entirety.
- √ As pertain to Photo/Video Release, I hereby **grant // do not** permission to VTA the right to take photographs and video of my minor athlete and my family in connection with volleyball tournaments that I participate in as a member of the Club. **(Please Circle Choice)**
- √ I authorize VTA, to copyright, use and publish the same in print and/or electronically for purposes of publicity, social media, and advertising.
- √ **We understand that our daughter's club dues are not refundable if we choose not to participate. If we choose not to participate, and have not completed paying the club dues; we also understand we will be responsible for the remainder of the club dues.**

Date: _____ Athlete Name: _____

Athlete's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

TEAM LEVEL/TUITION: _____

Address: _____
