

S.W.A.T.

VOLLEYBALL CLUB

HANDBOOK

MISSION STATEMENT

The goal of SWAT Volleyball Club is to strengthen the skills of our players while building character and emphasizing exemplary sportsmanship.

CONDUCT

While representing the SWAT Volleyball Club, we expect all athletes and parents to behave in a responsible manner.

PLAYING TIME

SWAT Volleyball Club has the philosophy that the amount of PLAYING TIME for all athletes is determined by the Head Coach. **WE DO NOT GUARANTEE EQUAL PLAYING TIME.** Each athlete will receive equal practice time. Factors that are considered when determining playing time: attendance, skill level, attitude, and effort. Playing time is earned. If a player has an unexcused absence the practice right before a tournament, that player will be required to sit the bench for one set of the tournament. If a player has an unexcused absence from a tournament, that player will be required to sit the bench for three sets at the next tournament.

PRACTICE

If an athlete cannot be at practice, the athlete must call or email the coach in advance. It is the athlete's responsibility (not the parent's) to reach the coach before the practice starts. Players who do not communicate with their coach about a missed practice could see a reduction in playing time.

Scheduled practice time is start time. Please arrive early enough to be dressed and completely ready for practice by start time. This includes setting up the volleyball equipment for practice. This usually requires arriving no less than 15 minutes before start time.

If an athlete is late arriving for practice, she must already be changed into her practice gear and ready to go. The coach, in his/her sole discretion, will determine if any corrective action needs to be taken.

Athletes are encouraged to bring water, in an unbreakable container, to practices and tournaments. Absolutely no glass containers are allowed in the gym.

Texting and making phone calls during volleyball practice or competition is ONLY allowed with permission from a coach.

TOURNAMENTS

All athletes are expected to attend every tournament. If an athlete cannot be at a tournament, she must inform the coach as soon as she knows she will be absent.

All athletes are expected to be in the gym, READY TO WARM-UP, at the scheduled arrival time.

Athletes will wear the specified uniform to all tournaments.

Athletes are NOT to wear jewelry or glitter of any kind or other non-uniform items during practice or competition.

Parents are responsible for providing transportation for their athlete to and from the tournament sites.

Athletes must stay at the tournament site until excused by the coach. This includes DURING as well as at the CONCLUSION of a tournament.

Officiating is the shared responsibility of the entire team. All SWAT athletes are required to help equally with the line judging, score keeping, score flipping and officiating. Except in cases of true emergency, all athletes and their team that have an officiating assignment must stay at a tournament until the assignment is completed.

TRAVEL

Parents must arrange and secure travel to and from tournaments. Players must stay with parents or guardians during travel tournaments. If a parent cannot attend a travel tournament, then another parent can be given temporary guardianship. Players are not required to stay at a specific hotel, although the players enjoy staying as a team and have more bonding opportunities when together.

WEATHER

When we have bad weather, all athletes should wait to be contacted by their coach to confirm if practice is cancelled. If there is no contact made, then practice will be held as scheduled.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

At SWAT we encourage the athlete to talk to the coach when she has a problem about her playing time or if she is uncertain what the coach expects from her either in practice

or in competition. The appropriate attitude is for the athlete to ask the coach what she needs to do to get more opportunities to play in matches. Parents can best help their athlete by helping her set some goals to achieve more opportunities to play.

When parents have a problem that is specific to their own athlete, we also encourage them first to talk to the coach. We instruct coaches they are not required to discuss "coaching decisions" which include, among other things, specific match decisions (who played when, who was subbed out and when, etc.). The amount of time any given athlete is on the court is the result of a complex determination, in that coach's opinion, of the athlete's ability, the athlete's potential, the team's needs at the moment, and the team's needs in the future. The coach will not be required to defend his/her thought process or conclusions in making these determinations, and we believe it is improper for a parent to request that of a coach.

Specifically, if you as a parent, or your athlete as a member of a SWAT Volleyball Club team, have concerns about SWAT policies or actions, the procedures to follow are, in this order:

The athlete should talk to the coach about the matter. If the matter remains unresolved, or if the athlete has reasonable concern that talking to the coach will not resolve the matter, then

The parent and player should talk to the coach. Parents and/or athletes are expected to call the coach on the phone to schedule a meeting. Meetings are to be at times and locations other than tournaments. If a parent approaches a coach during a tournament, we have instructed the coach to refuse to discuss any controversial matter, to refer the parent to the Director, and to walk away from the parent. This is known as the 48 hour cool off. The recommended time for a parent and/or athlete to talk to a coach about a problem is a previously arranged time either before or immediately after a scheduled practice. If the matter still remains unresolved, or if the parent has reasonable concern that talking to the coach will not resolve the matter, then

The parent should talk to the Director and request a meeting with the coach and Director. In certain situations, we may ask the athlete to attend the meeting also. Meetings should be previously arranged. Meetings will not be scheduled during or at a tournament site. The Head Coach and/or Director will not engage in discussion about coaching decisions.

CLUB FEES AND FINANCIAL POLICIES

SWAT Volleyball Club fees include 1) gym rental fees 2) coaching fees 3) team equipment 4) administrative expenses 5) tournament fees and 6) uniforms.

We may, at our discretion, deny an athlete whose account becomes delinquent during the current season the privilege of playing in a tournament or ask her to sit out at practice until the account is paid in full or arrangement for payment are made with the Director.

The party responsible for the athlete's fees and expenses must pay the current season's account in full before the athlete will be allowed to participate in the last scheduled tournament.

Please Sign and return this portion to SWAT Volleyball Club

Athlete's Agreement & Consent

I, _____ have read, understand, and agree to the policies, procedures and obligations set forth in the SWAT Volleyball Club Handbook.

Athlete's Signature

Date

Parent's Agreement & Consent

I, _____ have read, understand, and agree to the policies, procedures and obligations set forth in SWAT Volleyball Club Handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature/Relationship

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature/Relationship

Date

Athlete/Parent Playing Time Agreement

SWAT Volleyball has the philosophy that the amount of **PLAYING TIME** for all athletes is determined by performance, attitude toward teammates, and commitment of the athlete, and **IS LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE SWAT VOLLEYBALL COACH. WE DO NOT GUARANTEE EQUAL PLAYING TIME ON ANY TEAM OR AT ANY EVENT.**

Athlete's Initial _____

Parent's Initial _____