



Valley Volleyball Academy Player/Parent Manual

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Welcome to Valley Volleyball Academy

Valley Volleyball Academy (VVA) was forged by bringing together multiple Central Valley clubs, high school coaches, and college coaches together; providing a wealth of sustained knowledge, history, and quality coaches to the young athletes in the Valley. While Covid-19 brought to light some of the limitations each entity had as individuals, this also was an opportunity to assess what our community needs and wants in order to grow the game to an elite level. ***By pooling our talents and syndicating our experiences, we aim to provide the most comprehensive volleyball opportunity. Being a team sport, we know that by working together we can accomplish much more.***

Our long-term vision is to be unified in our endeavor so that we can be the premier volleyball club in the central valley and one of the best in California. We believe the talent and desire here in our community is to be great because we have seen it for decades in other sports. The time is now to start building the excellence in volleyball that we demand in our academics and in other sports.

Part of our long-term vision is to bring to fruition a volleyball facility that creates more opportunities for boys and girls in the Valley to train and compete. This will allow families to save on travel, save on cost, and provide access at younger ages to kids in the Valley to explore the sport. We are prioritizing player development over professional profit.

This group is led by a leadership team with decades of experience at every level in the sport locally and nationally. Additionally, it is led by an advisory board of local volleyball leaders with an interest to make volleyball an elite sport in the Valley - ***not a feeder program to any school or organization.*** Bringing the players from all different schools across the Valley will allow us to foster an energy of growth in the game and build the most competitive environment to compete at the highest level nationally.

Our Mission

The Valley Volleyball Academy's (VVA) mission is to provide the environment and education for valley student athletes to achieve excellence on and off the volleyball court. Through sound technical principles based in extensive research, a value driven culture, and quality coaching in an enjoyable and challenging environment the athletes from beginning to advanced will be able achieve their max potential.

Our Core Values are: RESPECT - COMPETE - RESILIENT - LEARN

Club Dues, Fees and Method of Payment

Once a player is accepted to the club and signs a player contract along with their parent or guardian, parents (guardians) are responsible for **full payment of all club dues and fees for the entire club season. Non-participation or injuries is not an automatic excuse from paying dues.** Accepting a spot with the club means acceptance of that financial responsibility to the club also. Payment plans are available. However, it should be noted, that the **first payment** is due on August 2nd (Wednesday following tryouts) and the final payment **in March**. There are **no refunds** regardless of circumstances (i.e. quitting, dismissal, etc.)

JVA has offered a Sports Fee Insurance program (<https://jva.sportsfees.us/#>) which families can buy as protection if something happens and they cannot play.

Failure to pay on time may result in **non-participation by the athlete**. The athlete **will not** participate in **practices** or **tournaments until dues are paid up to date**.

All multi-day tournament travel, food, and lodging expenses are the responsibility of the individual and **are not covered** by club fees/dues.

Parent Responsibilities

Being part of a club is a big responsibility not only for the athlete but for the parents as well. Parents are expected to pay dues and make sure the athlete is at all practices and tournaments on time. This may be accomplished by car-pooling, but ultimately the parent is responsible for the athlete's transportation.

As parents, you are role models for your children. Good sportsmanship should always be the number one priority. All players are **expected to stay at tournaments** until the team's responsibilities have been fulfilled. This includes **officiating responsibilities**. Any player **leaving without consent of her coach will be sanctioned** by reduced playing time during the next tournament.

Occasionally a question or concern arises regarding guidelines and procedures. If needed please take at least 24 hours to process then have the player talk with the Coach, if is not sufficient then the parent and player can talk with the Coach and finally to the Club Director.

Practices

Most practices will be held at the Valley Athletics Facility or the Fresno Fairgrounds Facility. All athletes will have the opportunity to learn techniques for passing, setting, attacking, serving, blocking, and digging skills. Basic movement and footwork patterns will also be emphasized. As players move up in age divisions, strategies will expand and the athletes will learn more advanced offensive and defensive techniques.

Good attendance and participation in practices and tournaments is expected. Missing practices may influence a player's playing time, but more importantly, he/she may lack the confidence and knowledge necessary to perform on the court which may cause a great deal of frustration for her and for her teammates. Players are responsible for planning for practice into their schedules.

Absences from practices **must be excused** ahead of time. The **player** must inform the coach if a practice must be missed. In case of injury, players are encouraged to continue to attend practices so, when once again able to participate, the player won't be so far behind her team.

Practices will be approximately 90 minutes to 2 hours and will include strength, agility, jump training, and volleyball skill development.

School Sport Athletes

Athletes who participate in school sports or other activities and also wish to play club volleyball have an added challenge of balancing these activities. It requires a special person to be organized and committed to these activities, but it can be done. Coaches expect that the athlete be honest and open about school sport/activity conflicts so the coaches can plan accordingly. A coach may be able to handle missing one or two athletes during a winter or spring sport season for some tournaments and practices, but will have to be informed of the conflicts at tryout time so she/he can plan to have a "balanced" team. A player involved in school sports may be asked to make-up some missed practices if it can be worked into her schedule. We ask that the multi-sport/activity individuals prioritize the major tournaments and season ending tournaments as those have significant ramifications for the entire team.

Team Selection Process

The Club Director, tryout evaluators and team coaches on the selection committee will make every effort to thoroughly and fairly evaluate all players at tryouts. This is usually a very difficult decision-making time. Tryouts will be used to determine the teams and all athletes should make every effort to be present for all dates. At the end of tryouts, a team offer will be given to each athlete selected to participate in the club. The team placement will be made via telephone call, email, or through TeamGenius. The athlete and her parents will then have to decide if they will accept the placement with the club team by contacting the coach. Once you

sign the Player Contract, this commits your child to our club for the season. We expect an immediate response so we can continue to form the teams.

Player Movement to Other Teams

Movement between teams and/or levels within the Club may be made by the Club Director and coaches based on the following reasons:

1. Player on a top team cannot meet the expectations of that team either by attendance, work ethic, or attitude.
2. Players' skill level has risen to the next level and space is available on a more competitive team.
3. Teams are in need of players because of injuries or commitment changes.
4. Players may benefit from additional playing time or playing at a different level.

Note: Movement is contingent upon available space and parent consent since such movement may involve extra costs or refund.

Playing Time

The goals of Valley Volleyball Academy are to provide an opportunity for athletes to improve individually and as a team player, to be competitive, and to have fun. Volleyball has changed tremendously through the years, so there is a lot to learn. This is taught through practices and competitions. The tournaments will give athletes the game playing experience that is vital to the development and understanding of the sport as well as to apply the skills learned in practice. Athletes and parents should see real growth as a volleyball player which may not be reflected in the team's win/loss record.

It is the decision of the coach, who earns a spot in the starting line-up on his/her team and how he/she develops each player into becoming an integral part of the team. Each player's role on the team is different, but all are important. Some positions, due to the nature of volleyball, will have more playing time than others. Other factors that are taken into consideration include attendance, effort in practices and games, level of performance, and receptiveness to coaching.

Parents are encouraged to have their daughter talk to the coach about concerns about playing time, skill progress, etc. Concerns by parents beyond those handled by the player and coach **must always** be brought to the coach preferably **by phone** and **always away from the practice or tournament site**. A conference can be arranged if necessary. If satisfaction is not obtained

after discussion or meeting with the coach, parents should contact the Club Director who will decide if further action needs to be taken.

We aim to build our teams and encourage our coaches to “Win with the WHOLE ROSTER”. There are a variety of roles, times, and tournaments that will allow space for coaches to play different players at different times as they see fit. We have 3 levels of teams as well with varying levels of playing time we ask of our coaches:

National - No guarantee of playing time. Coaches will try to get everyone in throughout the season, and build the team where everyone can have a role. But there are no guarantees.

West Coast - Winning is still the priority here, but the coaches are strongly encouraged to build a team and find a way to get everyone more playing time. It will often look more like everyone playing at least 30% of the time at a tournament.

California - Everyone will play in equal amounts throughout. Teams will be built to amplify opportunities for first time club volleyball players on these teams.

Uniform Policy

A uniform package will be offered at the beginning of each club season. For tournament competition each player will be required to wear the provided package. All players are required to purchase the basic gear package. Additional items are available to be purchased via our team store on the website.

Travel Tournaments

Teams will have some overnight tournaments. The club will have some room blocks available. Many of these tournaments offer preferred hotel that provide discounted rates (ask the Club Director). It will be up to the parents to call and confirm their own rooms.

It is important to be aware of the investment you are considering that comes with club volleyball. Travel is not included in any part of the club fees. It is at your expense to get your athlete to the playing venue and house them. In addition, on certain tournaments our club has a “stay-and-play” requirement to fulfill as required participating in the tournament. This means that each member of the team, at one point, will be required to stay at a hotel required by the event. Each player should have to fulfill no more than one stay-and-play requirement per club season (based on teams of 10) and we will inform you of your stay-and-play responsibility once teams are

selected and we near our first tournaments and given more information on stay-and-play obligations.

Other factors to consider in regards to club travel are flexibility. Oftentimes, tournament schedules are not released but a week in advance. In planning for travel, consider that you could have AM/PM waves and that your travel should always have you at the playing site well before you're supposed to play and not leaving until the conclusion of your teams playing and reffing responsibilities.

Zero Tolerance Policy

Valley Volleyball Academy has a Zero Tolerance Policy. This policy is designed for the safety of all players, coaches and other members of the Club. The Club Director has final say on all matters in regards to this policy. The following actions **may result** in the immediate suspension or dismissal of any player or family from the Club and WCVBA:

1. Alcohol, Drug, or Tobacco use or Vaping/Electronic Smoking Devices on site
2. Threats of Violence, Fighting, Bullying/Intimidation and Vandalism
3. Unlawful conduct such as shoplifting or disorderly conduct
4. Parents involved in coaching of players (including their daughter) at the practice facility or competition facility
5. Parents that gossip or spread misleading information or comments for the intent of undermining or subverting the coaches authority or the Club

Or

6. Any other action deemed inappropriate or harmful to any Individual, Coach, Chaperone, Member of any Club, Official or person(s) placed in a position of authority, will result in the immediate removal of the player from the Club, with recommended disciplinary action by WCVBA Association and **USAVolleyball**.

How to Be a Great Fan

Fans of Valley Volleyball Academy program should:

- ✓ Encourage good sportsmanship (Have Empathy and Respect Teammates)
- ✓ Honor and understand the commitment
- ✓ Be encouraging but not critical
- ✓ Encourage hard work
- ✓ Not coach from the sidelines
- ✓ Use only positive words and phrases to cheer during matches
- ✓ Help to create a positive sports climate
- ✓ Communicate concerns privately and directly to the coach, after your daughter has already done so

Thank you for being supportive of your daughter, her team and the Club!