



*... the journey to the next level.*

**CLUB PROGRAM - PARENT/ PLAYER HANDBOOK**

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## WHO ARE WE?



Florida Gulfside Volleyball Academy (FGVA) is a sports organization that is dedicated to the teaching and training of volleyball in the southwest area of Florida. FGVA was established in 2013, motivated by dozens of girls from this region who already had taken private classes with FGVA's present-day Club Director and Coach, Jan Class.

The continuous recognition of the quality, respect, and Coach Jan's innovative training philosophy, as well as proven results due to quick improvement in his players, served as the inspiration for creating the Florida Gulfside Volleyball Academy; a place where children and youths can count on quality training necessary to maximize their abilities, achieve higher levels of performance and consequently that of their teams and the categories and/or schools that they represent.

The strength of Gulfside Volleyball is definitely the quality of their coaches. Gulfside's coaches have more than 250 years of combined experience at D1, D2 and D3 COLLEGE coaching and playing, multi-year HIGH SCHOOL coaching and high level REGIONAL, NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL coaching. In addition, all coaches at FGVA have earned collegiate degrees, ranging from bachelor's to doctorate's level.

**FGVA Staff Bios:** <https://www.floridagulfsidevolleyball.com/about/#staff>

### VISION

At Florida Gulfside Volleyball Academy we provide our athletes with the experience of professional training, where the athletic potential maximizes individually and collectively with each practice, every game, and every tournament. We make an effort to help each player obtain optimal levels of athletic and intellectual development, promoting integrity, respect and discipline on and off the court.

### MISION

To become the leading volleyball academy, producing the highest rate of high-performance athletes in the state; recognized as the most complete, innovative and efficient training program for this nation's youth.

## FLORIDA GULFSIDE VOLLEYBALL ACADEMY

TALENT

PASSION

DISCIPLINE

HARDWORK

RESULTS

**Complete Control of Fundamental Skills:** To us, the teaching of skills and adequate fundamental techniques as in the continuous correction of these, not only is it part of our workout plan in each one of the categories, it is a training rule (coaching) for all performance levels.

**Physical Conditioning:** The volleyball sport requires high levels of technique and strategic intelligence to handle different playing situations. For this reason, it is very important at FGVA that each player is fit and able to carry out forceful and intense movements for long periods of time (1 or 2 hours). To Gulfside, a physical training program is not optional, but indeed a part of the regular training of a volleyball player at any level. For this reason, we rely on the knowledge and resources necessary for the analysis and efficient delineation of exercises and routines according to age, level, and the needs of the player.

**Game Intelligence:** To learn, understand, and master the execution of tactics and playing strategies is a fundamental part of training not only for the trainers, but also for the players. The development of an intelligent game plan in our athletes promotes decision-making and efficient plays on the court and consequently, better playing performance.

**Sportsmanship and Discipline:** Certainly, to Gulfside, the attitude and emotional maturity of the team athlete is extremely important. Likewise, the intellectual development as a human being that matures through discipline, respect, and the management of responsibilities is cultivated just as much at the sports level as the social level.

**Commitment:** A volleyball team, beyond the strategic training of talents, requires a genuine individual commitment. It is on this individual commitment where the ambition, perseverance, and disciplined training of each and every one of the players of a victorious team falls back on. Similarly, the recognition of their respective roles on the team and how these impact the results in a collective manner is significant.

**“Love for the Game”:** We know that once the decision has been made to train or teach a sport at the competitive level, this becomes a lifestyle. With this in mind, the love for the sport, the love for volleyball is indispensable. At Gulfside we seek to promote in each one of our athletes the energy and passion to do the things they love to do. Commitment, loyalty, respect, dedication, and responsibility are only a few of the attributes of our training that we hope to pass on and develop equally in our athletes.

**Family Atmosphere:** We don't just say it, we live it. As a family company, we hold our values very close and treat every player's family as if they are our own. We know club sports aren't just a part of the athletes' life, they involve all members of the family – and we work to provide an open, comfortable and rewarding club experience.

## TRYOUTS

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- Methods used to assign players to teams are based on an evaluation conducted in a professional manner based upon the consensus of eight to twelve eminently qualified individuals.
- Players' selections and team placements are made under the sole determination of our Team Placement Committee / Coaching Staff/Club.
- Additional potential opportunities for players are carefully evaluated and any determination is made considering multiple factors including but not limited to the player's skill level, player's position, team level, potential playing time and opportunities available. Having that said, some changes/moves are approved, and others are denied. Therefore, we expect parents to understand this process and to trust and respect the Club's determination. In case parents/players are not pleased with the opportunity offered, they are always free to decline the invitation.
- During the Team Placement process, rosters are subject to change as Commitments are received. Parents/ Players may access updated rosters by Login to their LeagueApps' Account.
- FGVA Club Directors, Coaches and Staff will not discuss technical decisions made during the Team Placement Process with parents.
- Families that has an account in arrears will be restricted from participating in any upcoming FGVA tryout, training/playing activities (Travel & Non-Travel Season, Summer Camps, Clinics, Private Training, Tournaments, etc.). Players with outstanding balances registering and showing up to any of our training services, will not be allowed to participate.
- Once teams are formed with commitments (Right after Tryouts) , our Player Development & Private Training Service is offered exclusively to FGVA Members. Any services provided to Non-Member Players must be approved by the Club Directors.
- If for some reason a player or a coach is no longer able or authorized to participate on the team for the season, the Club Directors, in their sole discretion, may add another coach or players to cover that position or positions in the team.
- Players might continue to be moved from one team to another OR from one position to another during practices, tournaments or for the season if the qualified coaching staff feel that it is in the team's best interest to do so.

## PLAYING TIME

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- Playing time is a complex decision based in various factors, including the coach's assessment of the athlete's skills, potential, and contribution to the team, as well as the team's current game situation, momentum, and future goals.
- Often a player is the shining star on a high school or middle school team at a particular position and is not allowed playing time at that position in a Club. There are several reasons for this. First, we all must remember that the competition within a Club is a lot stronger than on school teams; therefore, the competition for each position is more intense than in a school environment where the number of skilled players is limited.
- Second, the coach may have a particular need at a certain position and the player is the only one with the requisite skills to fill that need. In any event, talk to the coach first about any concern you may have and then support the coach's decision.
- Players will not always play the same amount of time. We cannot provide a guarantee of playing time. FGVA does provide a guarantee of the right to practice with players of equal or better ability and, through hard work, to improve skill levels and to compete for the opportunity to play.
- Playing time is earned, not awarded. Negative comments directed to other parents, coaches and players concerning offensive schemes, defensive schemes, players' positions, who is playing, who's not playing, etc. or providing excuses to players for poor performances have no place in our program. Help maintain an excellent program by supporting coaches and players with a positive attitude.
- **Under any circumstance, parents should not approach, call or text a coach, staff or directors at anytime during tryouts, tournament, games or practices regarding technical decisions and/or personal concerns. Please refer to the "Grievance Policy".**

Complaining by members (parents and or athletes) to other athletes, parents or to a third party that interferes with the club's efforts to pursue its' stated mission and purpose may be a cause, in the sole determination of the club, to cancel the family's affiliation to the Club.

## PLAYER RULES & POLICIES

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- We expect that our athletes and parents act in a courteous manner throughout the season both locally and as they travel. Athletes or parents disobeying either FGVA, AAU or USAV rules and policies, or acting in a manner deemed inappropriate by the staff, may be disciplined or expelled from Florida Gulfside Volleyball Academy. If expulsion from the program is required, there will be no financial compensation.
- Every member of FGVA will be offered training through practices. Playing time is based on practice and event performance of the athlete as viewed by the team coach and the FGVA coaching staff. Court time at major competitions (such as Regionals, National Qualifiers, and/or Nationals) will most likely be geared toward the best line-up. Equal playtime is NOT guaranteed.
- Any member found to be in the possession of alcohol, tobacco, vapor cigarettes, illegal drugs or prescribed medication without written consent on the premises of any practice or tournament facility will be immediately expelled from the program.
- Players must contact their coach at least one hour before practice if they will not be in attendance. Athletes who miss practice are missing valuable information and training time and, potentially, may be subject to immediate disciplinary actions at the sole discretion of the Team Coach. These disciplinary may affect the player's playing time at practices, scrimmages, games and/or tournaments.
- To emphasize player responsibility, we do not want parents to call on behalf of their child (except for the 13 and under parents/players).
- To promote team and program unity, all athletes are required to wear practice uniforms at all practices and full game uniforms at all tournaments. Team uniforms do not include jewelry, wristbands, or headbands. Provided warm up pants or shorts are to be worn over spandex outside of the gym/ tournament location.
- The use of gear jackets, hoodies, warm-ups not provided by the Club are prohibited
- To prevent choking and 'sticky' situations, players will not be allowed to chew gum during practices, while playing, or while officiating at events. To ensure the safety of fans and spectators and to prevent damage at playing sites, ball handling will only be done in the gymnasium.
- **Players will arrive at the playing site at least one (1) hour prior to their first match (45 minutes for refereeing and 1 hour for playing the first match).**

## TOURNAMENTS

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- All players are required to wear FGVA issued warmups upon entering and leaving the gym/tournament facilities. All players must also match practice t-shirts at tournaments or any other volleyball related functions.
- No food, drinks (other than water), or chewing gum is permitted in the gym at any time. Florida Region rules allow a tournament director to penalize teams if parents and/or supporters ignore this rule
- **All Players Travel & Non-travel are required to obtain BOTH an AAU & USAV membership for the upcoming season.** Any players who commits to the FGVA Club Season are expected to fully comply with all team practices and tournaments until their team's responsibilities are completed with the participation at the USAV National Championships (if the team qualifies) and/or AAU National Championships in the summer months. When committing to the FGVA Club Program, players are bound to participate on ONLY FGVA teams, whether indoor or beach.
- **All athletes who commit to the Club Season are expected to attend ALL tournaments. Tournament participation is NOT optional, is MANDATORY.**

## UNIFORMS

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- The Club has standardized on Navy, Orange, White and Gray as the Club colors. The required uniforms are provided by FGVA. Should a player lose a uniform piece, it must be replaced at an additional cost to the player.
- As part of the FGVA Travel Uniform Package, the Club has issued all players with the approved warm-up jacket and pants that is to be worn entering and exiting the playing sites. **Players must NOT wear any other jackets that promote other organizations.** This includes college spirit wear.
- As per USAV rules our Liberos are not to wear Pink or Orange when the rest of the team is wearing pink or orange. When the team is in the light colors, our Liberos need to wear the dark jersey. When the team is in the Dark jersey, the Liberos may wear the light jersey.
- Teams (Parents, Players and/or Coaches) shall not purchase or produce individual/team apparel without the approval of the Club Directors.
- Teams are required to wear their FULL UNIFORM for all award ceremonies at tournaments. Players must wear their warm-up jackets, warm-up pants and volleyball shoes for all award team pictures.



## OFFICIATING

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- To ensure fairness in distributing officiating duties, each year, every player and coaches must complete all USAV Florida Region required officiating clinics. These clinics, offered by the USA Volleyball Academy are MANDATORY for all players and must be completed by players from their SportsEngine Account. The USA Volleyball Academy is a Learning Management System where you can complete necessary coursework (ex: junior officials or scorer training) for the season.
- In addition, players may leave a tournament only after all refereeing duties have been completed and permission has been obtained from the team coach.

## TRAVEL

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1. Travel expenses for players/ families are not included in the club fees. You should fully understand the tournament schedule to estimate the actual travel expenses that you may incur such as air/ ground transportation, hotel & meals.
2. The parents of the players are responsible for providing transportation to all practices. In the same manner, the parents have the responsibility of transporting their children to the location of designated tournaments, corresponding hotels and both throughout the duration of the tournament.
3. Athletes will be required to obtain permission from their team coach before leaving a hotel or playing site.
4. When traveling via airline, FGVA expects all teams to dress accordingly. If the team decides to wear FGVA apparel, every member of the team should wear the same thing. If the team decides to just look nice, please use good taste when selecting your attire for the airline. No midriiffs, "daisy dukes"...
5. We encourage parents to travel with the team to different events, but this is an extra expense to the family. If for some reason, the parents or guardians of the player cannot travel we urge them to coordinate beforehand with other parents of the team so that their daughter is under that parent's guardianship during the trip/tournament. No player shall be under the guardianship of any FGVA coach during the trip/tournament nor stay overnight at his/her room.
6. Prior to an out-of-town tournament, the coach must receive in writing the date and time the athlete will be arriving and departing from the event in addition to the location of stay.
7. Staying overnight at the FGVA assigned hotel in the authorized room block for all nights as per dates provided by the Club is MANDATORY.
8. Players not staying at the FGVA assigned hotel in the authorized Room Block for reservation dates provided by the Club, will be subject to immediate suspension for that tournament and further disciplinary actions described in the *Club Discipline Policy*.

## PRACTICE & TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES

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- Parents are required to be at least 10 minutes early. We have limited gym space and to avoid another team's practice starting late or your practice running short, every athlete must be dressed, warmed up, and ready to go at the practice time listed.
- Volleyball shoes should be carried into practice and tournament venues and only worn for practice and games to assure that the shoes last longer, and our practice facilities remain clean.
- All athletes are required to wear the FGVA Orange practice T-Shirt (provided) to practice. Each team is required to wear the same practice t-shirt at practice.
- If an athlete is late arriving to a practice, she must change into her practice gear, report to her coach and explain why she is late. Her coach, in his/her sole discretion, will determine any corrective action to be taken.
- An injured athlete who attends school is expected to attend FGVA practice, even if she cannot physically participate in practice. This policy is to offer support to her team as well as to assist the coach if needed.
- Transportation to practice is the responsibility of the parents/guardian. If your daughter must wait after practice for someone to pick her up, FGVA coaches are required to stay with her. In this situation, the Club has the authority to charge you a \$25 fee for each half hour. Please do not take advantage of the fact that he/she is required to stay with your daughter if you are late.
- Fortuitous events, Act of God, unforeseen occurrence or circumstances beyond the control of the FGVA may occur and the Club may need to cancel, reschedule or postpone practices, scrimmages and/or tournaments. As such, FGVA reserves the right to alter or modify the practices, scrimmages and/or tournament schedule if necessary. Any changes on the practices and/or tournaments schedule will be updated on our LeagueApps Application as soon as possible. Parents/Players are responsible to Log In to their LeagueApps account and stay informed about practice/tournaments schedules.
- **Participation at tournament is mandatory for all players, not optional.** The tournament schedule is provided prior the season starts and families are expected to make such arrangements to ensure their players' attendance.
- Even if a team attends and earn a bid and qualify for the USAV Jr. National Championships, the team still, **MUST** attend all remaining tournaments on schedule as planned, including qualifiers. No cancelations will be made. No exceptions.

## PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

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- Florida Gulfside Volleyball Academy strives to continue to be highly regarded for its professionalism and values that exist on it. That is why just as we expect certain actions of our players, we also ask the same courteousness and politeness from our players' parents.
- The legal consumption of alcohol by parents, team chaperones, coaches and tournament officials should be always done in a responsible manner, and only once tournament play for that day has concluded and is in adherence to all local, state and federal laws.
- Parents should refrain from any unsportsmanlike conduct that could embarrass the club and/or penalize a team. Parents disobeying FGVA, AAU or USAV rules, or acting in a manner deemed inappropriate by the staff, may cause the player to be suspended or expelled from FGVA.
- FGVA and its staff are not responsible to manage matters that are not related to the volleyball training services it provides. **Personal issues between players and/or parents should be discussed and resolved between parties involved outside FGVA** premises and activities (practices, games, tournaments, meetings, team dinners, etc.)
- Parents will not be permitted to discuss coaching philosophies with the coaches at practices OR tournaments. FGVA asks that, if a parent is concerned about something with a team/player/coach, he/she will wait 24 hours after the end of the practice or tournament before discussing the matter with the coach. Please see Grievance Policy & Procedures.

## TEAM PARENTS

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- Every FGVA team shall have a *Team Parent*, which is basically a team representative. This parent is selected by the Club and will make sure the coach has everything needed from the team's parents. Usually asked to be the team chaperone as well.
- This parent needs to be available to attend all or at least most of the travel engagements.
- *Team Parent* will oversee making sure each member of the team has a list of everyone's contact information. In addition, this parent will oversee contacting all the parents if the coach needs information for the team spread quickly. May be asked to communicate emergency plans or changes at the coaches' request. Also, all team bonding/social activities should be coordinated through or along with the Team Parent (not through the coach). The Team Parents should be aware of all Team bonding events. The Team Parent will keep the Club Directors informed about these events.

## ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION POLICY

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FGVA recognizes the prevalence of electronic communication and social media in today's world. Many of our athletes use these means as their primary method of communication. While the Club acknowledges the value of these methods of communication, the Club also realizes that there are associated risks that must be considered when adults use these methods to communicate with minors.

**SOCIAL MEDIA: FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND SIMILAR SITES:** Coaches and minor athletes are not permitted to "Follow", "private message" or "instant message" each other through any Social Media Site.

The Club has an official Facebook & Instagram page that athletes and their parents can "Like" or "Friend" for information and updates on team-related matters. Teams (Parents, Players and/or Coaches) shall not create a Facebook, Instagram, You Tube or any other type of Social Media account using the Logo, Name or Image of Florida Gulfside Volleyball Academy.

**TEXTING:** Subject to the general guidelines mentioned above, texting is allowed between coaches and athletes & parents during the hours from 7:00am until 10:00pm. Texting only shall be used for the purpose of communicating information directly related to team activities another Applicable adult or the parent should be copied or included on the message.

**REQUEST FOR DISCONTINUE ALL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS:** The parents or guardians of an athlete may request in writing that their child not be contacted by coaches through any form of electronic communication. Immediate compliance without repercussion must be granted.

**MISCONDUCT:** Social media and electronic communications including *LeagueApps Application*, can be used to commit misconduct (e.g., emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment, defamation and hazing). Such communications by coaches, staff, volunteers, administrators, officials, parents or athletes will not be tolerated and are considered violations of our Parent/Player Handbook.

**OFFICIAL USE:** The use of official communication tools such as the FGVA *LeagueApps Application*, Social Media, Email and Texting at anytime should not be used by staff, parents or players for personal matters in any way.

**VIOLATIONS:** Violations of the FGVA Electronic Communication Policy should be reported to the Club Director or Club Administrator. Complaints and allegations will be addressed following the appropriate procedure.

A USAV participant or parent of a participant who violates this policy is subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension, permanent suspension and/or referral to law enforcement authorities.

## GRIEVANCE POLICY PROCEDURES: CONFIDENTIALITY

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It is inappropriate for an athlete or parent to approach or share (verbally or written) with other FGVA members information about a disagreement or problem the athlete or parent is having with the Club or a FGVA Staff member. Asking uninvolved persons to take sides in an issue is unfair to the third party and to the Club. For the psychological health of the teams and the club, grievances need to be handled between the parties involved and the decision makers in the situation.

- Remember: Competitive team athletics, by nature alone, create situations where everyone may not be happy all the time.

Any member who is approached and asked to listen to or to express an opinion about matters between two other parties in the club is strongly encouraged to refer the complaining party to take the matter up with either the coach or the Club Directors.

Any member who, as a third party, hears remarks or stories about FGVA, its' employees or its' policies, that cause the member to be concerned, is expected to call the Director(s) immediately to determine the facts, or to alert the club administration to a situation of which it may be unaware.

- By the time the story gets to a third or fourth party, it frequently bears little resemblance to the truth or to the facts of the situation.
- It is also detrimental to the athlete and disruptive to the team to complain to the athlete about the coach, the coach's style, or the FGVA decisions and policies.
- If you, as a parent, are unhappy or concerned about any matter, address the party in control. If the athlete is unhappy, she needs to address the appropriate party and follow the Grievance Procedure in place.

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## GRIEVANCE POLICY & "24-HOUR POLICY" PROCEDURES



Parents will sometimes disagree with a coach's decision or approach, especially when it involves their child's playing time. Parents must understand that the coach does not represent a player. The coach represents the team and must make decisions from a team perspective first and a player perspective second.

In the same way, FGVA expect all players and parents to put team goals before all else and respect our playtime standard. Which means the best player for the job will play and all other players must be ready and willing to support the team's goal before any personal agendas. This competitive model allows the team to perform as well as possible at tournaments, especially at national events; Junior Nationals, AAU Nationals and Qualifiers.

For parents, it is important to separate their child's sports development from game emotions. For this reason, we have adopted the **"24 Hour Rule" which simply states that FGVA coaches and staff will not discuss a game or situation until at least 24 hours after the fact OR after the tournament ends. This important rule does two things.**

- ✓ First, it removes the discussion away from the presence of the players.
- ✓ Second, it allows all parties to have time to put things in perspective and a "cooling off" period if necessary.

If parents will respect the **"24-Hour Policy"**, their concerns are more likely to be fully addressed in a reasonable discussion. More importantly, the player's enjoyment of a game will not be marred by an ill-timed confrontation between parents and their coach/staff.

Knowing when to communicate and how to communicate with your athlete's coach might be a concern for almost every parent at some time during the season. Most often, the concern is how to inquire about issues surrounding playing time. **FGVA encourage the athlete to talk to the coach when she has a problem with her playing time.** If the athlete is unsure or unclear about what the coach expects from her, either in practice or in competition, the appropriate action is for the athlete to communicate with the coach as to what she needs to do to get more opportunities to play in matches or at another position.

Coaches will not be required to justify their playing time decisions. Parental inquiries about these decisions, specially during tournaments, are prohibited. Coaches are also prohibited from discussing other athletes or FGVA Coaches with players or parents.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Cont.

## GRIEVANCE POLICY & "24-HOUR POLICY" PROCEDURES



**FAMILIES/ PLAYERS** with concerns regarding their child, must follow the FGVA "24-Hour Policy" to resolve the matter:

- ✓ **STEP #1 – PLAYER + COACH:** The athlete should attempt to resolve the issue by discussing the concern with her/his coach at practice (Following our SafeSport One-On-One Interaction Policy). This provides the Coach a fair opportunity for open dialogue, understanding and response. If the issue persists after completing Step #1...
- ✓ **STEP #2 – PARENT, PLAYER + COACH:** The player's authorized parent or guardian should request a meeting with the coach. This meeting should be scheduled through TEXT AND/OR EMAIL directly to the coach. If the issue persists after completing Steps #1 & 2...
- ✓ **STEP #3 – PARENT, PLAYER, COACH + ADMIN:** Parents/player should send an email to: [office@gulfsidevolleyball.com](mailto:office@gulfsidevolleyball.com) requesting a meeting with the Coach & Club representative/ Club Director(s). The email should clearly state the reason for the meeting, the date when Step #2 was completed and the desired outcome. Before moving forward with this Step #3, we encourage parents to make sure this meeting is necessary. Multiple/ additional requests by the same player/parents to meet with a Club representative and/or Club Director(s) may be denied.

If the issue persists after completing Steps #1, 2 & 3:

- ✓ **STEP #4 – UNAFFILIATION:** If a solution is still not reached, a player/ parent can choose to resign to her/his affiliation to FGVA. There will be no refund given.

### MEETINGS:

- Approaching, texting or calling a Coach, Club Director or Staff during a practice, scrimmage or tournaments is prohibited. We have instructed our staff to follow the "24-hour" procedures and refuse to respond to any controversial matter during training and/or tournament events.
- Parents/Players must wait 24-Hours after the incident occurs or the issue/concern arises OR the tournament concludes to proceed with STEP #1 of this Grievance - 24-Hour Policy.
- Meetings should be scheduled in advance and will never be approved to take place at a player's/ parent's office or home. The location should be mutually agreed upon by the parents, coach and club representative and should take place at a time that's convenient for all parties and away from practice and tournament times.

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## DISCIPLINARY POLICY

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FGVA and its staff work hard to maintain a positive organizational culture and first-class reputation. Therefore, expectations for players and parents are high. FGVA will not tolerate hostile, aggressive, disrespectful confrontations between a parent and any staff member, official, coach, athlete, or another parent, whether the confrontation is within the club or not.

Those families/players who fail to comply with any of the FGVA Club Policies detailed in this Parent/Player Handbook will be subject to disciplinary actions that, depending on the severity of the issue, may range from reprimand, to loss of playing time (sets, games), tournament suspension, expulsion of the family from the current Team/Club Season and/or could be indefinitely banned from joining a Florida Gulfside team in the future. The determination of the penalty will be at the sole discretion of the Coach and/or Club Directors.

**COACHES** with concerns or issues with a parent(s) or player, will follow the following Disciplinary Policy Steps:

- ✓ **1<sup>st</sup> STEP: WARNING:** Depending on the severity of the policy violation, the coach may simply communicate his/her concern(s) and/or issue verbally with the parent or player. Parent(s)/ Player will be asked to review the FGVA Handbook Policies to avoid further violation(s) of policies to occur.
- ✓ **2<sup>nd</sup> STEP: "YELLOW CARD" = FINAL WARNING:** If the concern/ issue recurs, the Coach will issue a "Yellow Card" to the parent(s) or player as a second and final warning before a disciplinary infraction is issued.
- ✓ **3<sup>rd</sup> STEP: "RED CARD" = INFRACTION:** If the parent of player behavior continues to be inconsistent with the FGVA Parent/ Player Handbook, the Coach will issue a "Red Card" which would imply a disciplinary action. Depending on the severity of the issue, the player will be subject to (1) loss of playing time (sets, games) and/or (2) a tournament suspension and/or (3) expulsion of the family from the current Team/Club Season and/or (4) could be indefinitely banned from joining a Florida Gulfside team in the future.

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## ABOUT TRAVEL & NON-TRAVEL PROGRAMS



**PRIME** teams are Gulfside’s most competitive travel program. The goal is to prepare the players to be successful by putting the best team on the court with the best chance of winning in Regional & National Level competitions. *Players are given equal opportunity to prove they are the best option for the team to be successful but are not guaranteed any definite amount of playing time.*

**ELITE** teams are for the level of players already having the skills to play in a Regional competitive team environment. ELITE teams are made up of athletes with intermediate to advanced skill level interested in training and pushing themselves to their highest level of play.

**ORANGE** teams will focus on player development during the season, however during tournaments playing time will be focused on performance. Orange teams training methodology has more emphasis on giving all players court exposure.

**NON-TRAVEL LEAGUE** focus on player development and offers girls between the ages of 9 and 17 the opportunity to receive the same high-level training that characterizes Gulfside Volleyball in a LOCAL setting, without the commitment that requires a Regional or National travel team.

TEAM	PRACTICES PER WEEK	NON-BID TOURNAMENTS	NATL. OR REG. QUALIFIER-BID TOURNAMENTS*	UNIFORM PACKAGE**	COACH TRAVEL EXPENSES
<b>PRIME</b>	3	3 or 4	3 or 4	✓	✓
<b>ELITE</b>	2	4 or 5	1 or 2	✓	✓
<b>ORANGE</b>	2	6	N/A	✓	✓
<b>NON-TRAVEL</b>	2	N/A	N/A	✓	✓

**\*USAV JR. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:** All TEAMS are required to participate in the USAV National Championships (if the team qualifies) AND the AAU Nationals for an additional fee. The additional estimated fee for the USAV Jr. Nationals or the AAU Nationals Training/Tournament respectively, is between \$800 and \$950 per member depending on the number of players in the team and the tournaments dates (Training Period)

**\*\*UNIFORMS:**

- Uniform Package for all Travel Teams includes: Two (2) Jerseys; ONE (1) Warm Up Jacket; One (1) Warm-up Pants; Two (2) practice T-Shirts; Two (2) Spandex Shorts; One (1) Organizer bag (New Members Only); One (1) Pair of Knee Pads; Two (2) Pair of Socks.
- *Uniform Package for Non-Travel Teams includes: (2) practice T-Shirts; One (1) Jersey; One (1) Spandex Shorts.*

## PAYMENT AND REFUND POLICY

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FGVA Club Season Tuition Fees and Payment Schedule for the season are due as outlined in initial team registration. This information is also available on the FGVA Website.

Travel and Non-Travel Programs are offered on a season basis only. No prorated fee [per day(s)/ month(s) attending will be offered.

The Club's budget is based on the number of participants that commit to play on each team each season, and the Club has financial obligations to meet according to that budget. Therefore, each player is required to meet all financial obligations and pay full season fees to the Club even if Club Player elects to cease participation in the Club or if the Player is suspended or expelled from the Club at any time. There are no refunds once the player/parent accepts the spot in the team and register to the Program.

Partial refund due to extraordinary circumstances of critical illness or injury certified by medical doctor specialist in the field of the player's injury. Partial refund may be considered on a case-by-case basis and Club Directors in conjunction with the Advisory Board may only grant relief, if any.

If the Club would be required to institute legal proceedings to recover any amount under this agreement, Parent/ Guardian agrees to pay all Club costs of litigation incurred with such collections efforts as allowed by law in the state of Florida.

Payment will be made in 6 installments or all at once\*. The days of paying tuition for the regular season (November – April next year) are the 2nd of each month:

- FIRST PAYMENT: \$500 - \$700: Due on the day of selection of the team.
- SECOND PAYMENT: September 2<sup>nd</sup> (20% of remaining balance)
- THIRD PAYMENT: October 2<sup>nd</sup> (25% of remaining balance)
- FOURTH PAYMENT: November 2<sup>nd</sup> (33% of remaining balance)
- FIFTH PAYMENT: December 2<sup>nd</sup> (50% of remaining balance)
- SIXTH & FINAL PAYMENT: January 2<sup>nd</sup> (100% of Balance)

## INVALID PAYMENTS

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Every payment due not received or credit card transaction that is unable to be process by FGVA OR any payment that is under dispute will be subject to a \$30 late fee charge will be added to the account every week it is past-due.

If the payment due is NOT made in full within seven (7) days, the player will be ineligible to practice or play until the payment is settled with the FGVA Office. Returned checks will be charged an additional \$30.00 reprocessing fee.

### Methods of payment:

- Credit Card using your LeagueApps account: <https://leagueapps.com>
- By check made out to FGVA: 4001 Santa Barbara Blvd. #335, Naples, FL 34104.
- Cash: Delivered directly (ONLY) to the Director(s)

## PART III REQUIRED POLICIES FOR ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

The U.S. Center for SafeSport recognizes that youth-adult relationships can be healthy and valuable for development. Policies on one-on-one interactions protect children while allowing for these beneficial relationships. As child sexual abuse is often perpetrated in isolated, one-on-one situations, it is critical that organizations limit such interactions between youth and adults and implement programs that reduce the risk of sexual abuse.

### ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

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*USA Volleyball, RVAs and USAV member clubs, as well as all Adult Participants, shall comply with the following one-on-one policy*

#### A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible
  - a. All one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible, except in emergency circumstances.
  - b. The exceptions below may apply to specific policies, and if the exceptions apply, they are listed in the policy. These exceptions also apply to all one-on-one In-Program Contact not specifically addressed in other policies:
    - i. When a Dual Relationship exists; or
    - ii. When the Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
    - iii. If a Minor Athlete needs an Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant, and:
      - (1) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Volleyball, the Region or Club for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
      - (2) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
      - (3) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with USA Volleyball's screening policy; or
    - iv. In other circumstances specifically addressed in this policy that allow for certain one-on-one interactions if USA Volleyball, the Region or Club receives parent/ guardian consent.

## **MEETINGS AND TRAINING SESSIONS**

*USA Volleyball, RVAs and USAV member clubs, as well as all Adult Participants, shall comply with the following Meetings and Training Sessions Policy*

### **A. Mandatory Components**

#### **1. Observable and Interruptible**

Adult Participants must follow the one-on-one interaction policy in all meetings and training sessions where Minor Athlete(s) are present.

#### **2. Individual Training Sessions**

a. One-on-one, In-Program, individual training sessions must be observable and interruptible except if:

- i. A Dual Relationship exists; or
- ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
- iii. A Minor Athlete needs an Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant, and:
  - (1) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Volleyball, the Region or the Club for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
  - (2) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
  - (3) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with USA Volleyball's screening policy.

b. The Adult Participant providing the individual training session must receive advance, written consent from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian at least annually, which can be withdrawn at any time; and

c. Parents/guardians must be allowed to observe the individual training session.

#### **3. Meetings with licensed mental health care professionals and health care providers (other than athletic trainers<sup>3</sup>)**

If a licensed mental health care professional or licensed health care provider meets one-on-one with a Minor Athlete at a sanctioned event or a facility, which is partially or fully under USA Volleyball's jurisdiction, the meeting must be observable and interruptible except:

- a. If the door remains unlocked; and
- b. Another adult is present at the facility and notified that a meeting is occurring, although the Minor Athlete's identity needs not be disclosed; and

<sup>3</sup> Athletic trainers who are covered under these policies must follow the "Athletic Training Modalities, Massages,

and Rubdowns” policy.

- c. USA Volleyball, the Region or Club is notified that the provider will be meeting with a Minor Athlete; and
- d. The provider obtains consent consistent with applicable laws and ethical standards, which can be withdrawn at any time.

## **B. USA Volleyball Recommended Requirements**

### **1. Monitoring**

If a permitted meeting or training session takes place between an Adult Participant(s) and a Minor Athlete(s) at a facility partially or fully under USA Volleyball’s jurisdiction, another Adult Participant will monitor each meeting or training session. Monitoring includes reviewing the parent/guardian consent form, knowing that the meeting or training session is occurring, knowing the approximate planned duration of the meeting or training session, and dropping in on the meeting or training session.

### **2. Parent Training**

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to have a meeting or training session with an Adult Participant subject to these policies.

## **ATHLETIC TRAINING MODALITIES, MESSAGES, AND RUBDOWNS**

*USA Volleyball, RVAs and USAV member clubs, as well as all Adult Participants, shall comply with the following Athletic Training Modalities, Messages, and Rubdown policy*

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### **A. Mandatory Components**

#### **1. Athletic training modality, massage, or rubdown**

All In-Program athletic training modalities, massages, or rubdowns of a Minor Athlete must:

- a. Be observable and interruptible; and
- b. Have another Adult Participant physically present for the athletic training modality, massage, or rubdown; and
- c. Have documented consent as explained in subsection (2) below; and
- d. Be performed with the Minor Athlete fully or partially clothed, ensuring that the breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals are always covered; and
- e. Allow parents/guardians in the room as an observer, except for competition or training venues that limit credentialing.
- f. The provider must narrate the steps in the massage, rubdown, or athletic training modality before taking them, seeking assent of the Minor Athlete throughout the process.

#### **2. Consent**

- a. Providers of athletic training modalities, massages, and rubdowns or USAV, RVAs or Clubs, when applicable, must obtain consent at least annually from Minor Athletes' parents/guardians before providing any athletic training modalities, massages, or rubdowns.
- b. When possible, techniques should be used to reduce physical touch of the Minor Athlete.
- c. Only licensed providers can administer a massage, rubdown or athletic training modality.
- d. Coaches, regardless of whether they are licensed massage therapists, cannot massage Minor Athletes
- e. Minor Athletes or their parents/guardians can withdraw consent at any time.

### **B. Recommended components**

#### **1. Parent Training**

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport education and training on child



abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to receive an athletic training modality, massage, or rubdown.

## LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

*USA Volleyball, RVAs and USAV member clubs, as well as all Adult Participants, shall comply with the following Locker Rooms and Changing Areas policy*

### A. Mandatory Components

#### 1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult Participants must ensure that all one-on-one In-Program Contact with Minor Athlete(s) in a locker room, changing area, or similar space where Minor Athlete(s) are present is observable and interruptible, except if:

- a. A Dual Relationship exists; or
- b. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
- c. A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant and:
  - i. the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Volleyball, the Region or the Club for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
  - ii. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
  - iii. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with USA Volleyball's screening policy.

#### 2. Conduct in Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces

- a. No Adult Participant or Minor Athlete can use the photographic or recording capabilities of any device in locker rooms, changing areas, or any other area designated as a place for changing clothes or undressing.
- b. Adult Participants must not change clothes or behave in a manner that intentionally or recklessly exposes their breasts, buttocks, groins, or genitals to a Minor Athlete.
- c. Adult Participants must not shower with Minor Athletes unless:
  - i. The Adult Participant meets the Close-in-Age Exception; or
  - ii. The shower is part of a pre- or post-activity rinse while wearing swimwear.
- d. Parents/guardians may request in writing that their Minor Athlete(s) not change or shower with Adult Participant(s) during In-Program Contact. USA Volleyball and the Adult Participant(s) must abide by this request.

#### 3. Media and Championship Celebrations in Locker Rooms

USA Volleyball may permit recording or photography in locker rooms for the purpose of highlighting a sport or athletic accomplishment if:



- i. Parent/legal guardian consent has been obtained; and
- ii. USA Volleyball, the Region or Club approves the specific instance of recording or photography; and
- iii. Two or more Adult Participants are present; and
- iv. Everyone is fully clothed.

#### 4. Personal Care Assistants

Adult Participant Personal Care Assistants are permitted to be with and assist Minor Athlete(s) in locker rooms, changing areas, and similar spaces where other Minor Athletes are present, if they meet the requirements in subsection (1)(a)(iii) above.

#### 5. Availability and Monitoring of Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces

- a. USA Volleyball, the Region or Club must provide a private or semi-private place for Minor Athletes that need to change clothes or undress at sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under USA Volleyball's jurisdiction.
- b. USA Volleyball the Region or Club must monitor the use of locker rooms, changing areas, and similar spaces to ensure compliance with these policies at sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under USA Volleyball's jurisdiction.

## **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS<sup>4</sup>**

*USA Volleyball, RVAs and USAV member clubs, as well as all Adult Participants, shall comply with the following Electronic Communications policy*

### **A. Mandatory Components**

#### **1. Open and Transparent**

- a. All one-on-one electronic communications between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be Open and Transparent except:
  - i. When a Dual Relationship exists; or
  - ii. When the Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
  - iii. If a Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant and:
    - (1) the Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Volleyball, the Region or Club for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
    - (2) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
    - (3) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with USA Volleyball’s screening policy.
- b. Open and Transparent means that the Adult Participant copies or includes the Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian, another adult family member of the Minor Athlete, or another Adult Participant.
  - If a Minor Athlete communicates with the Adult Participant first, the Adult Participant must follow this policy if the Adult Participant responds.
- c. Only platforms that allow for Open and Transparent communication may be used to communicate with Minor Athletes.

#### **2. Team Communication**

When an Adult Participant communicates electronically to the entire team or any number of Minor Athletes on the team, the Adult Participant must copy or include another Adult Participant or the Minor Athletes’ parents/guardians.

#### **3. Content**

All electronic communication originating from an Adult Participant(s) to a Minor Athlete(s) must be professional in nature unless an exception in (1)(a) exists.

<sup>4</sup>Electronic communications include, but are not limited to: phone calls, videoconferencing, video coaching, texting, and social media.

4. Requests to discontinue

Parents/guardians may request in writing that USA Volleyball or an Adult Participant subject to this policy not contact their Minor Athlete through any form of electronic communication. USA Volleyball and the Adult Participant must abide by any request to discontinue, absent emergency circumstances.

5. Hours

Electronic communications must be sent only between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. local time for the location of the Minor Athlete.

6. Social Media Connections

Adult Participants, except those with a Dual Relationship or who meet the Close-in-Age Exception, are not permitted to maintain private social media connections with Minor Athletes and must discontinue existing social media connections with Minor Athletes.

## TRANSPORTATION

*USA Volleyball, RVAs and USAV member clubs, as well as all Adult Participants, shall comply with the following Transportation policy*

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### A. Mandatory Components

#### 1. Transportation

- a. An Adult Participant cannot transport a Minor Athlete one-on-one during In-Program travel, except if:
  - i. A Dual Relationship exists; or
  - ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
  - iii. A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant and:
    - (1) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Volleyball, the Region or Club for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
    - (2) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
    - (3) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with USA Volleyball's screening policy; or
  - iv. The Adult Participant has advance, written consent to transport the Minor Athlete one-on-one obtained at least annually from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian.
- b. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.
- c. An Adult Participant meets the In-Program transportation requirements if the Adult Participant is accompanied by another Adult Participant or at least two minors.
- d. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian is required for all transportation sanctioned by USA Volleyball, the Region, or Club at least annually.

#### 2. Shared or Carpool Travel Arrangement

USA Volleyball mandates parents/guardians to pick up their Minor Athlete first and drop off their Minor Athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.

## LODGING

*USA Volleyball, RVAs and USAV member clubs, as well as all Adult Participants, shall comply with the following Lodging policy*

### A. Mandatory Components

#### 1. Hotel Rooms and Other Sleeping Arrangements

- a. All In-Program Contact at a hotel or lodging site between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible, and an Adult Participant cannot share a hotel room or otherwise sleep in the same room with a Minor Athlete(s), except if:
  - i. A Dual Relationship Exists, and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided USA Volleyball, the Region or Club with advance, written consent for the lodging arrangement;
  - ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies, and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided USA Volleyball, the Region or Club with advance, written consent for the lodging arrangement; or
  - iii. The Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant, and:
    - (1) The Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided advance, written consent to USA Volleyball, the Region or Club for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete and for the lodging arrangement;
    - (2) The Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
    - (3) The Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with USA Volleyball's screening policy.
- b. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian must be obtained for all In-Program lodging at least annually.

#### 2. Monitoring or Room Checks During In-Program Travel

If USA Volleyball, the Region or Club performs room checks during In-Program lodging, the one-on-one interaction policy must be followed and at least two adults must be present for the room checks.

#### 3. Additional Requirements for Lodging Authorized or Funded by USA Volleyball, RVAs or Clubs.

- a. Adult Participants traveling with USA Volleyball, the Region or Club must agree to and sign USA Volleyball, the Region or Club's lodging policy at least annually.
- b. Adult Participants that travel overnight with Minor Athlete(s) are assumed to have Authority over Minor Athlete(s) and thus must comply with the Center's Education & Training Policy.

## PART IV

### RECOMMENDED POLICIES FOR KEEPING YOUNG ATHLETES SAFE

#### A. Out-of-Program Contact

Adult Participants, who do not meet the Close-in-Age Exception nor have a Dual Relationship with a Minor Athlete, should not have out-of-program contact with Minor Athlete(s) without legal/parent guardian consent, even if the out-of-program contact is not one-on-one.

#### B. Gifting

1. Adult Participants, who do not meet the Close-in-Age Exception nor have a Dual Relationship with a Minor Athlete, should not give personal gifts to Minor Athlete(s).
2. Gifts that are equally distributed to all athletes and serve a motivational or education purpose are permitted.

#### C. Photography/Video

1. Photographs or videos of athletes may only be taken in public view and must observe generally accepted standards of decency.
2. Adult Participants should not publicly share or post photos or videos of Minor Athlete(s) if the Adult Participant has not obtained the Parent/Guardian and Minor Athlete's consent.

## TERMINOLOGY

**Adult Participant:** Any adult (18 years of age or older) who is:

- a. A member or license holder of USA Volleyball, RVAs or Clubs ;
- b. An employee or board member of USA Volleyball, RVAs or Clubs ;
- c. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USA Volleyball, RVAs or Clubs ;
- d. Authorized, approved, or appointed by USA Volleyball, RVAs, or Clubs to have regular contact with or authority over Minor Athletes.<sup>5</sup>

**Amateur Athlete:** An athlete who meets the eligibility standards established by the National Governing Body or paralympic sports organization for the sport in which the athlete competes.

**Authority:** When one person's position over another person is such that, based on the totality of the circumstances, they have the power or right to direct, control, give orders to, or make decisions for that person. Also see the [Power Imbalance definition in the SafeSport Code](#). *NOTE: NGBs, PSOs, and the USOPC must submit/include categories of members/individuals that fall under the definition including specific volunteer designations.*

**Close-in-Age Exception:** An exception applicable to certain policies when an Adult Participant does not have authority over a Minor Athlete *and* is not more than four years older than the Minor Athlete (e.g., a 19-year-old and a 16-year-old). Note: this exception *only* applies within the prevention policies and *not* regarding conduct defined in the SafeSport Code.

**Dual Relationships:** An exception applicable to certain policies when an Adult Participant has a dual role or relationship with a Minor Athlete and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent at least annually authorizing the exception.

**In-Program Contact:** Any contact (including communications, interactions, or activities) between an Adult Participant and any Minor Athlete(s) related to participation in sport.

Examples of In-Program Contact include, but are not limited to: competition, practices, camps/clinics, training/instructional sessions, pre/post game meals or outings, team travel, review of game film, team- or sport-related relationship building activities, celebrations, award ceremonies, banquets, team- or sport-related fundraising or community service, sport education, or competition site visits.

<sup>5</sup>This may include volunteers, medical staff, trainers, chaperones, monitors, contract personnel, bus/van drivers, officials, adult athletes, staff, board members, and any other individual who meets the Adult Participant definition

**Local Affiliated Organization (LAO):** A regional, state, or local club or organization that is directly affiliated with an NGB or that is affiliated with an NGB by its direct affiliation with a regional or state affiliate of said NGB. LAO does not include a regional, state, or local club or organization that is only a member of a National Member Organization of an NGB. LAOs of USA Volleyball include all 41 Regional Volleyball Association regions and all volleyball clubs that are a member of those regions.

**Minor Athlete:** An Amateur Athlete under 18 years of age who participates in, or participated within the previous 12 months in, an event, program, activity, or competition that is part of, or partially or fully under the jurisdiction of, an NGB, PSO, USOPC, or LAO.

**Partial or Full Jurisdiction:** Includes any sanctioned event (including all travel and lodging in connection with the event) by the NGB, PSO, USOPC, or LAO, or any facility that the NGB, PSO, USOPC, or LAO owns, leases, or rents for practice, training or competition.

**National Governing Body (NGB):** A U.S. Olympic National Governing Body, Pan American Sport Organization, or Paralympic Sport Organization recognized by the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee pursuant to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. §§ 220501, et seq. This definition shall also apply to the USOPC, or other sports entity approved by the USOPC, when they have assumed responsibility for the management or governance of a sport included on the program of the Olympic, Paralympic, or Pan-American Games.

**Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant:** An Adult Participant who assists an athlete requiring help with activities of daily living (ADL) and preparation for athletic participation. This support can be provided by a Guide for Blind or visually impaired athletes or can include assistance with transfer, dressing, showering, medication administration, and toileting. Personal Care Assistants are different for every athlete and should be individualized to fit their specific needs. When assisting a Minor Athlete, Adult Participant PCAs must be authorized by the athlete's parent/guardian.

**Paralympic Sport Organization (PSO):** an amateur sports organization recognized and certified as an NGB by the USOPC.

**Regular Contact:** Ongoing interactions during a 12-month period wherein an Adult Participant is in a role of direct and active engagement with any Minor Athlete(s). *NOTE: NGBs, PSOs, and the USOPC must submit/include categories of members/individuals that fall under the definition including specific volunteer designations.*



**U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC):** A federally chartered nonprofit corporation that serves as the National Olympic Committee and National Paralympic Committee for the United States.

**APPENDIX I**

**CHART OF POSSIBLE ADULT PARTICIPANTS IN USAV:**

<b>Adult Participant</b>	<b>Regular Contact</b>	<b>Authority Over</b>
USAV Staff/Interns	X	X
USAV Board Members		X
Region/Club Staff	X	X
Region/Club Board Members		X
Coaches	X	X
Officials	X	X
USAV Members 18 years or over on teams with Minors	X	
Chaperones	X	X
Club Administrators	X	X
Arbitrators	X	X
Medical Professionals	X	X
Athletic Trainers	X	X
Independent Contractors	X	

**USAV Members 18 and over who are only participating in Opens (i.e., not also a club coach, chaperone, or board member) with no minor players are not required to take training.**

## FGVA CLUB RELEASE POLICY



- After a player commits to a team and completes registration with the *Florida Gulfside Volleyball Academy*, the player is considered registered to the Club.
- Each player is bound to the Club for the entire seasonal year which runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> of current year 2024 through the Junior National Championships 2025; OR until the end of her/his practices, games and tournaments responsibilities with the team are completed (in case the team does not qualify for the GJNC)\*.
- If an athlete/family wishes to disaffiliate from FGVA during the season, the athlete/family in question must submit a written request for release to the FGVA Club Director (at the club's email address) and to the Florida Region at office@FloridaVolleyball.org stating the reason for the request.
- FGVA will not consider a request for a release from the program during the season until that player has paid his/her entire financial obligations to the Club for the entire season. The Club will release the athlete once the tuition cost of the 2024-25 season is paid in full and all club competition gear provided to the athlete for the season is returned.
- Players receiving *Financial Assistance* will be released once the tuition cost of the 2024-25 season is paid in full including any portion of granted assistance and all club competition gear provided to the athlete for the season is returned.

**TRANSFERS:** 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.

**\*FROZEN PLAYER RULE:** Once a female junior player has participated in a GJNC Qualifying event (Regional or National) she may not be on the Official Roster of, or participate in, another GJNC qualifying or championship event with a different Club. *Source: USAV Girls' Jr. National Qualifier Manual – "Frozen Player" Rule.*

Please refer to the Florida Region of USA Volleyball PARENT INFORMATION PAGE - *Club Releases/Transfers* for additional details: [www.floridavolleyball.org](http://www.floridavolleyball.org)

*By our signatures below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the FGVA's – Club Release Policy.*

PARTICIPANT (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/ GUARDIAN (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/ GUARDIAN (Signature): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_

## FGVA CLUB PROGRAM PARENT/ PLAYER HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



The Florida Gulfside Volleyball Academy (FGVA) – Club Program Parent/Player Handbook is provided online and presents information regarding expectations for players, parent behavior and disciplinary actions for misconduct.

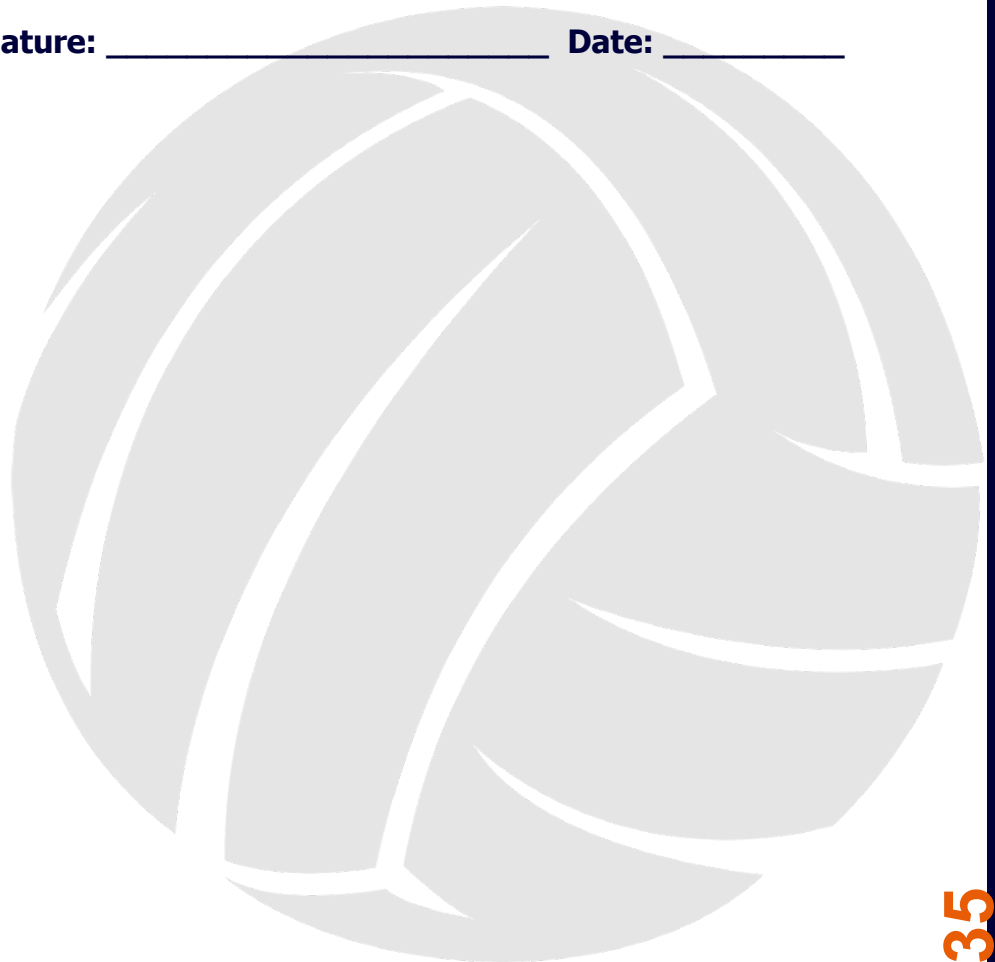
Please read and review the information in the FGVA's Parent/Player Handbook with your child so that you have a clear understanding of its content.

*I have read and understand the FGVA's – Club Program Parent / Player Handbook. If I have questions regarding anything written in this handbook, I will contact the FGVA Administration and review to my complete understanding before signing this form.*

*By my signature below, we acknowledge that both, Parent and Player, have read and understand the entire FGVA's – Club Program Parent/ Player Handbook.*

**PARENT/ GUARDIAN Print:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT/ GUARDIAN Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



*“It’s not the will to win, but the will to prepare to win that makes the difference”*

*- Paul Bryant*



*...the journey to the next level.*

