

Stars Volleyball Academy Parent & Player Handbook

Organization:

The *Stars Volleyball Academy* (Refer as “the Club” or “SVA” below) is a non-profit organization established in Howard County, Maryland. The Club is a member of CHRVA (Chesapeake Region Volleyball Association), which is a member of USA Volleyball, and is governed by the rules and regulations of USA Volleyball, the sanctioning bodies for amateur volleyball in the United States.

Mission:

The Club's purpose is to provide cost-effective and competitive teams for its members' who seek to develop their volleyball skills, enhance their school volleyball experience, and further their love of the sport by playing in CHRVA volleyball or USAV events.

All players must be registered with CHRVA with USA Volleyball membership. (website: <https://www.chrva.org/>). Your team may play tournaments sanctioned by AAU. If this is the case, all players will be instructed to purchase AAU memberships.

There will be no guarantee that girls will be on any team. Players who have previously played with the Club are not guaranteed spots on the same team in subsequent years. Players may be selected to play on a team that is above their age level but may not play on a team that is below their age level.

Costs:

See our publications for the current season. All checks are submitted at signing in the membership. Checks can be written on different dates as indicated in the fee schedule.

There will be no refunds for any reason. As soon as the membership fee and uniform fee are received, they are used to register the Club, teams, and coaches, to order uniforms, pay for gym rental, and enter tournaments. The membership fee is spent long before the player plays in a single tournament. The Club does not make a profit and has no surplus to use for refunding membership fees, even in the event of player injury.

Practices:

The Club expects to hold practices at a minimum of twice a week at designated locations. Practice times will be announced in advance and emailed to all club members. Additional practice time will be posted on available locations.

Players are expected to attend every practice unless they notify their Coach in advance and are excused. The Coach may refuse to play a player in a tournament if the player has been absent from the prior practice(s) without excuse. Players must notify the Coach of conflicts as far in advance as possible.

Team Size:

The Club expects that a team will consist of no less than eight and no more than fifteen players in general. If a team is large, additional tournaments may be added to provide more opportunity for play time.

Playing Time:

The Coaches will make every effort to offer fair playing time to each team player, but **there is no guarantee that playing time will be equal**. The Coaches will make decisions about the line-up, position played and each player's playing time in the best interest of the team. During pool play, the Coach will make reasonable attempts to play every player who has attended practice, is not sick or injured, and is not being disciplined for behavioral or attitude problems. If the team makes the play-offs, the Coach will play those players who give the team the best chance of winning in those matches.

Movement between Teams:

The Club may move a player from one team to another or offer a player an opportunity to play with another team for certain tournaments, if it is in the best interest of the program. Reasons for moving a player could include such factors as the loss of a player by another team, positional needs of a team, developmental needs of the player or a team missing player for a tournament. An additional tournament fee may be charged.

Tournaments:

Local tournaments are typically held on a Saturday or Sunday, starting in January and running through May. A tournament schedule will be emailed to all players and/or posted on website, along with links for directions to the tournament locations.

Many of the local tournaments are within a 50-mile radius of Columbia MD and will require a drive of an hour or more. The tournament play usually starts as early as 8:00 a.m. and play-offs may end as late as 8:00 p.m. Therefore, the player must be prepared to leave very early in the morning and return home late at night.

Player Responsibilities:

Players who are offered and accept membership in the Stars Volleyball Academy are committed to the Club and may not play for another Club for the entire club season. Players are expected to attend every practice or notify the Coach in advance if they are going to be absent. Players should give the Coach at least two weeks' notice if they are unable to attend a tournament.

Players *and* parents are expected to conduct themselves in a mature, responsible manner. Players *and* parents must exhibit a positive attitude and dedication to the club, the coaches, other team members, parents, and officials. The Club will not tolerate horseplay, threatening behavior, violence, alcohol, drug, or tobacco use, inappropriate sexual behavior, theft or inappropriate or vulgar language. If a player or parent fails to observe these rules, the Club may, in its sole discretion, ban the individual from participating in future events (without a refund in membership fee) or future Club membership.

All players are required to learn to keep score and participate in a scorer's clinic. All players are required to take turns keeping score or calling lines at tournaments. Typically, if the team loses at the end of pool play or in playoffs, the team will be required to work on the next match. Players are

expected to remain at the tournament until the team is done working, even if the player has worked earlier in the day and is not working on that match. No player should leave until the Coach dismisses the player for the day. No player may have a cell phone or other electronic device when keeping score, judging lines, or participating in the work crew for a tournament. Failure to adhere to this rule may cause the team to be sanctioned, which may include a significant monetary fine for the players.

Players are expected to read their e-mail and check designated social media accounts often for announcements, practice and tournament changes, and other important information.

Parent Responsibilities:

Parents are asked to keep a positive attitude and dedication to the club, the coaches, other team members, parents, and officials. Please drop off and pick up your player promptly from practice. Practice time is at a premium. Coaches need parent cooperation for them to start/end on time. Have your player arrive early and pick them up when required. Coaches are volunteers. Please respect their time.

Parents are not allowed to assist in practices, without prior approval of the Club Director. Parents should refrain from coaching from the sidelines. Be encouraging and supportive, encourage good sportsmanship, and don't do anything to embarrass your child, the Club, or yourself. While everyone likes to win, the goal of team sports is really to improve player skills, bolster player self-esteem, and to teach players lasting values like self-confidence, poise, sportsmanship, and fair play. Please keep this in perspective. Parental misconduct will be grounds for banning the parent from future attendance at tournaments or banning the player from future membership.

Parents are also expected to provide transportation to and from practice and tournaments. You should plan to provide food to keep your player properly nourished at tournaments, although most tournaments offer a concession stand.

Parents are expected to read their e-mail often for announcements, practice, and tournament changes, and other important information before contacting Coaches or the Club Director with questions. Parents are permitted to "friend" coaches on social media, but players are not allowed to do so unless they are family members.

Injuries or Illness

The Club may request medical documentation from any player who is ill or injured before allowing her to return to practice or to participate in tournaments.

Coaches:

The Club hires experienced, dedicated coaching staff. Head Coaches will complete all required training and meet the certification requirements of USAV. They will provide instruction that is appropriate based upon the player's age and abilities, with an emphasis on sportsmanship, self-esteem, and team spirit.

Player or Parent Concerns:

The Club understands that, as a parent, your child is your primary concern. The Coach's primary concern is the development of the entire team; the Coach's secondary concern is the development of each of the team's individual players. Consequently, parents and coaches do not always share the same views about the positions played or the amount of playing time a player receives. If your player has a

concern about playing time or other issues, she should have a private discussion with the coach or club director. Please allow your player to discuss her concerns first with the coach, without your interference. This is a growth opportunity for your player.

If your player still has a concern, then a parent may address concerns with the Coach, if it is done in a respectable manner, at a pre-arranged time, and not during a tournament or practice. The Club encourages a 24-hour waiting time before reaching out to a Coach. After waiting 24 hours, contact the Coach to arrange an appropriate discussion time. The Coach will be able to explain the reasons for coaching decisions, but please do not expect the Coach to change coaching decisions or playing time simply to please parents or players. Any issues that are not resolved by discussion with the Coach may be submitted in an email directed to the Club: StarVolleyballAcademy@gmail.com .