

WEVA

Western Empire Volleyball Association

Western New York Region of USA Volleyball

WEVA

CODE

OF

CONDUCT

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“The WEVA SPIRIT”

All participants within Western Empire Volleyball Association (WEVA), athletes, coaches, parents, referees, staff and spectators are expected to create a memorable atmosphere where everyone gets the most out of the shared experiences. The mission of all events sponsored by WEVA is to provide athletes with tests of their athletic talents while at the same time offering the entire community with opportunities to be enlightened by their experiences both on and off the court.

A mutually supportive atmosphere can only be created and maintained when everyone commits to embodying this spirit. The primary components of this spirit are family, friends, and fun. Families are encouraged to share in the joy of witnessing spirited competition and in sharing off-court special moments. Athletes are provided opportunities to strengthen bonds with their friends and family. The WEVA experience should be a joyful experience that will inspire enthusiasm for family-centered activities. All participants deserve to be provided with opportunities to join together to celebrate individual and collective achievement.

I. General Conduct

- 1) The “Spirit of WEVA” should be adhered to in regards to the choice players and families make for club participation.
- 2) Alcohol and Drug Use:
 - a) State and Federal laws prohibit the use of alcohol by minors (under 21 years of age) and the possession or use of drugs. These laws will be strictly enforced by parents, team chaperones, coaches and tournament officials and apply to all participants of USAV/WEVA sanctioned events.
 - b) Any person found in violation of these laws during USAV/WEVA sanctioned events may be subject to prosecution by law enforcement officials and will be suspended from WEVA for a period of time – as determined by the WEVA Ethics & Eligibility Committee.
 - c) Team chaperones and coaches assume responsibility for monitoring player conduct both on and off the court at USAV/WEVA sanctioned events to ensure that drinking and drug use laws are upheld.
 - d) The legal consumption of alcohol by parents, team chaperones, coaches and tournament officials should be done in a responsible manner at all times, and in adherence to all local, state and federal laws.

II. Player Conduct

- 1) Players will abide by USA Volleyball rules regarding court conduct:
 - a) At all times coaches, teammates, opponents, and officials will be treated with utmost respect.
 - b) Players and Coaches serving as second referees, scorekeepers, lines person, or ball shaggers will:
 - i) Appear on time to perform their duties
 - ii) Stand alone while performing their duties
 - iii) Not talk to anyone during the match except the referees
 - iv) Will wear sneakers
 - v) Not use electronic devices (e.g. cell phones, PDAs, MP3 or CD players, computers, games, etc.), or engage in any other distraction during the match.
- 2) Coaches will assume responsibility for making certain that their players understand how to perform their officiating responsibilities with appropriate techniques and behavior, and will be present at the court as part of the work team.
- 3) Players will show good sportsmanship and respect toward teammates, opponents, coaches, staff and spectators.
- 4) The full responsibility for enforcing court conduct rules resides with match officials and/or tournament director. Teams that fail to abide by these rules are subject to disciplinary action (e.g., game forfeiture or exclusion from the tournament or future sanctioned events) – as determined by the WEVA Ethics & Eligibility Committee.

5) In addition to abiding by the general code of conduct, all players will follow all team, club, tournament and hotel guidelines.

III. Parent / Spectator Conduct

1) Each club assumes full responsibility for orienting all participating parents / spectators to appropriate parent conduct during all sanctioned events. At all times parents / spectators are expected to demonstrate respect for athletes, coaches, referees, other parents, other spectators, and WEVA staff.

Parents /spectators will not:

- a) Represent the team in any on-court disputes
- b) Assume full responsibility for instructing athletes prior to, during, and following competition.
- c) Enforce the rules of the game and on-court player conduct.

2) Parents and/or spectators are expected to report to the proper authorities any violations of laws, policies, club or team rules that they observe. They are not to assume responsibility for enforcing public laws, event rules, and club or team rules. Law enforcement officials will assume responsibility for enforcing public laws.

The Event Director and their representatives, referees, and staff will assume responsibility for enforcing the Code of Conduct. Team chaperones and coaches not other parents or spectators, will assume responsibility for taking disciplinary action against violators of club or team rules.

3) Parents and/or spectators who interfere with the conduct of competition or who violate any provisions of the code of conduct may be asked to leave the playing site, excluded from entering playing sites for the duration of the event, or prohibited from attending future events.

4) Verbal assaults on athletes, coaches, referees or other event staff by parents and/or spectators will be reported and disciplinary action may be taken against the club as well as the violator. The club leadership assumes full responsibility for the conduct of all athletes, coaches, chaperones, parents and spectators representing the club.

5) Physical assaults on athletes, coaches, referees or other event staff will not be tolerated and will be reported to law enforcement officers and charges will be filed.

IV. Coaches Conduct

1) Coaches must follow all rules as set-out by the Official Rules of USA Volleyball.

2) In addition, throughout the event the Coaches must behave in ways that:

- a) Display the utmost respect for their own and their opponent's athletes and coaches
- b) Display the utmost respect for the officials, lines persons and scorekeepers

3) Coaches are required to assume leadership in enforcing the “Spirit of WEVA”. If they fail to be good role models for their athletes, parents, and spectators or fail to provide responsible leadership in the enforcement of the player or parent Code of Conduct, they, their teams, and/or their clubs may be subject to disciplinary action – as determined by the WEVA Ethics & Eligibility Committee.

4) Coaches shall NOT abuse their power and role with players in a manner that threatens, harms, humiliates, induces fear, or causes a student substantial emotional distress. This includes physical (including sexual), mental, emotional, racial and any / all crimes associated with teacher / student or adult / child laws set out by federal, state and local legislation and guidelines.

5) Coaches affiliated with WEVA and an area high school program can and should encourage their players to play club volleyball so long as said coaches are acting within the spirit of WEVA and not violating the **Club Code of Conduct** outlined below. The families will evaluate clubs within WEVA that will be the best fit for their goals and objectives without the perceived threat of repercussions during high school play. As noted above in #4 and documented in club conduct section below, coaches will not threaten or cause a student emotional distress by applying pressure to only consider playing for the club they are affiliated with. In addition, conversations should be avoided where promises for special placements/considerations are made for members of their high school teams in their affiliated club.

V. Club Conduct

Key Terms:

- **Clubs** – includes the club director, coaches, chaperones, and team representatives of any type.
- **Athletes** - the player and/or their parent/guardian
- **Contact** – includes flyers, phone calls, letters, text messages, e-mails, instant messaging, social media (twitter, facebook, myspace, etc.), comments and conversation.
- **Off-Season** – is the time frame from the first day after USA Junior National Championships until October 31st.
- **WEVA Season** – is November 1st until the last day of USA Junior National Championships.
- **Club Tryouts** – may begin September 1st – with exception of WEVA registration and tryout fees Clubs will not be allowed to collect club payment until after November 1st (WEVA Season).

1) Information: **Clubs** will provide to WEVA web master their club mission along with information meeting dates, team selection dates, potential club fees, practice schedule/requirements and club contacts. This information must be submitted by September 1st. It will be published on the WEVA website. All tryouts MUST be sanctioned via the WEVA website before they begin.

2) Athletes that have committed financially to a club/organization will not be solicited by other clubs/organizations during the competitive WEVA Season. This includes all registered adults within an organization (Committee members, coaches, parent reps, chaperones, etc.). It is the club’s responsibility to ensure all registered adults are aware of this guideline. This prevents recruiting during the playing season and puts the responsibility back on clubs for subsequent education.

- 3) At the completion of the WEVA Season athletes may be contacted by club representatives to provide information for the upcoming season.
- 4) Soliciting athletes that have not played for the soliciting organization will be limited to one (1) electronic contact (e-mail, social network, text, etc.), one (1) phone contact and one (1) in-person contact. If the player registers with WEVA and selects the soliciting club as their organization, then see #5.
- 5) Contact with athletes currently registered with the soliciting club has no limits unless requested by the athlete.
- 6) If at any time the athlete requests solicitation to stop verbally, electronically or in writing that club will immediately cease contact. Any additional contact must be initiated by the athlete.
- 7) Athletes that do not register for a club/organization nor attend tryouts for a club/organization will not be solicited if they have registered and attended tryouts for another club.
- 8) Adults leaving one organization for another may not contact athletes except during the above time frames and adhering to the above guidelines.
- 10) Release: All players are considered released from their present clubs at the conclusion of the USA Junior National Championships, and **completion of all payments due to their current club.**
 - a) All junior players will be allowed the opportunity to register with a new club the following **WEVA Season** if all financial obligations have been met from the previous registered club. In order to assure that this is being accomplished, all **Clubs** will provide the registrar with a report at the end of each season of players NOT in good financial standing with their club.
 - b) No junior player will be entitled to switch until all financial obligations from prior club are fulfilled.
 - c) A Junior player registered with a club is “free” to entertain switching clubs at any point during the WEVA season. See handbook sections Changes in Membership/Transfer Policy/Financial Obligations as well to ensure that all steps are understood and followed. Summary of the process that is required to be utilized is the following:
 - Document request to switch to current club director. Signed by parent/guardian
 - Obtain signed release from current club director.
 - Provide the signed release from the current club director to the new club director.
 - Forward signed release and new club information to registrar for processing.

VI. Officials Conduct

- 1) Officials must follow all rules as set-out by the Official Rules of USA Volleyball.
- 2) In addition, throughout the event the Officials must behave in ways that:
 - a) Display the utmost respect for players, coaches and parents / spectators

b) Display the utmost respect for other officials, lines persons and scorekeepers

3) Officials are required to assume leadership in enforcing the "Spirit of WEVA". If they fail to be good role models for their athletes, parents, and spectators or fail to provide responsible leadership in the enforcement of the player or parent Code of Conduct, they may be subject to disciplinary action – as determined by the WEVA Ethics & Eligibility Committee.

4) Officials shall NOT abuse their power and role with players in a manner that threatens, harms, humiliates, induces fear, or causes a student substantial emotional distress. This includes physical (including sexual), mental, emotional, racial and any / all crimes associated with teacher / student or adult / child laws set out by federal, state and local legislation and guidelines.

VII. Code Enforcement

1) Violations of the Code of Conduct by any WEVA participant may lead to a variety of disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion – as determined by the WEVA Ethics & Eligibility Committee. The WEVA Ethics & Eligibility Committee (WEC) will be made up of one member in good standing from each of the six (6) largest junior clubs/organizations in WEVA.

2) In the event WEVA is contacted with a complaint in regards to a guideline violation, the WEVA Director, President or designee will contact the WEC. The WEC will determine which member will lead the investigation.

3) Leader will interview over phone or in person all pertinent parties (who alleged the complaint, Athletes involved, club representative involved, etc.) within two weeks of receiving complaint. Leader will submit a written report to the WEC for discussion and approval within one week of completing interviews.

4) WEC will then submit the written report to the WEVA Executive Board at the next available WEVA Board Meeting with a consensus finding stating whether or not the guidelines were violated. If the complaint involves any member of any club from the WEC then that WEC member is exempt from this process.

As it is the club's responsibility to ensure that all registered members are aware of these guidelines, the following sanctions would apply:

1st Offense:

The club/organization will receive a written warning from the WEVA Executive Board outlining the complaint and the WEC finding.

The club/organization will reply in writing to the WEVA Board acknowledging the infraction and a proposed corrective action plan outlining what efforts the club is taking to prevent a re-occurrence. (This can include additional education, removal of registered adult, etc.)

2nd Offense:

If any club has a second offense within two (2) competitive seasons that club will be ineligible to receive WEVA funds for post season tournaments for that season.

If the second offense involves the same registered adult, then that WEVA membership will be revoked for the remainder of the competitive season.

3rd Offense:

If any club has a third offense within three (3) competitive seasons that club will be ineligible to receive WEVA funds for post season tournaments for that season AND will be ineligible to compete in the WEVA bid tournament for that season.

If the third offense involves the same registered adult, then that WEVA membership will be revoked for the remainder of the competitive season AND the following competitive season.