



## ***Volleytech Academy – Mission and Partnership Approach***

***Mission Statement:*** It is the mission of Volleytech Academy (hereinafter “VTA”). To provide a positive, competitive youth volleyball experience for player, parent and coach. We emphasize long-term player development of physical, emotional and social skills. While winning is an absolute priority in club volleyball, winning will not be placed above good sportsmanship (defined as respecting rules and procedures set forth below, teammates, coaches, officials, opponents and oneself). It is our goal to create an environment that will benefit the individual as well as the team.

Competitive team athletics, by its very nature, creates situations where everyone may not be happy all the time. Team success is intimately linked to individual success. Each player will fill a necessary role on the team.

Research is clear that when parents and teachers work together a child tends to do better in school. There is no reason to think that it is any different in youth sports. The following are some guidelines for how parents will contribute to a Coach/Parent Partnership that can help the athlete have the best possible experience.

- ***Recognize the Commitment the Coach Has Made:*** The coach has made a commitment that involves many, many hours of preparation beyond the hours spent at practices and games. Recognize his commitment and the fact that he is not doing it because of the pay! Try to remember this whenever something goes awry during the season.
- ***Make Early, Positive Contact with the Coach:*** As soon as you know who your child’s coach is going to be, contact her to introduce yourself and let her know you want to help your child have the best experience she can have this season. To the extent that you can do so, ask if there is any way you can help. By getting to know the coach early and establishing a positive relationship, it will be much easier to talk with her later if a problem arises.
- ***Fill the Coach's Emotional Tank:*** When the coach is doing something you like, let him know about it. Coaching is a difficult job and most coaches only hear from parents when they want to complain about something. This will help fill the coach’s emotional tank and contribute to his doing a better job. It also makes it easier to raise problems later when you have shown support for the good things he is doing. All coaches do things well, take the time to acknowledge.
- ***Don't Put the Player in the Middle:*** Imagine a situation around the dinner table, in which a child’s parents complain in front of her about how poorly her math teacher is teaching fractions. How would this impact this student’s motivation to work hard to learn fractions? How would it affect her love of mathematics? While this may seem farfetched, when we move away from school to youth sports, it is all too common for parents to share their disapproval of a coach with their



children. This puts a young athlete in a bind. Divided loyalties do not make it easy for a child to do her best. Conversely, when parents support a coach, it is that much easier for the child to put her wholehearted effort into learning to play well. If you think your child's coach is not handling a situation well, do not tell that to the player. Rather, seek a meeting with the coach in which you can talk with her about it.

- ***Don't Give Instructions During a Game or Practice:*** You are not one of the coaches, so do not give your child instructions about how to play. It can be very confusing for a child to hear someone other than the coach yelling out instructions during a game. As in #4 above, if you have an idea for a tactic, go to the coach and offer it to him. Then let him decide whether he is going to use it or not. If he decides not to use it, let it be. Getting to decide those things is one of the privileges he has earned by making the commitment to coach.
- ***Fill Your Child's Emotional Tank:*** Perhaps the most important thing you can do is to be there for your child. Competitive sports are stressful to players and the last thing they need is a critic at home. Be a cheerleader for your child. Focus on the positive things she is doing and leave the correcting of mistakes to the coach. Let her know you support her without reservation regardless of how well she plays.
- ***Fill the Emotional Tanks of the Entire Team:*** Cheer for all of the players on the team. Tell each of them when you see them doing something well.
- ***Encourage Other Parents to Honor the Game:*** Don't show disrespect for the other team or the officials. But more than that, encourage other parents to also Honor the Game. If a parent of a player on your team begins to berate the official, gently say to them, "Hey, that's not Honoring the Game. That's not the way we do things here."



## *Athlete & Parent Code of Conduct - Volleytech Academy*

Participation in Volleytech Academy (hereinafter “VTA”) should be a privilege and be looked upon by coaches, athletes and parents as such. At all times, athletes, coaches and parents are expected to act in a first class manner and dress appropriately keeping in mind they are a member of a team and should act with high moral and social standards while representing VTA. Display good sportsmanship and respect towards competitors, parents and event staff at all times. *The director (Melanie Wood) reserves the right to add rules as a situation demands.*

*Listed below are activities and behaviors in which VTA athletes are prohibited from participating during the hours of VTA functions. The sub-bullet points denote the consequences in the presence of restricted behavior/activity.*

- Consumption of alcoholic beverages or being under the influence of alcohol.
  - **Immediate and permanent dismissal from VTA.**
- Consumption or under the influence of drugs, chewing tobacco or smoking material of any kind.
  - **Immediate and permanent dismissal from VTA.**
- Visible “hickeys” or tattoos.
  - **Immediate dismissal from VTA functions until the player can fully conceal the affected skin.**
- Fraternizing with coaches.
  - **First offense:** verbal warning from club director and meeting with player and player’s parents.
  - **Second offense:** immediate and permanent dismissal from VTA.
- Profanity towards coaches, referees, opponents or members of their club
  - Decreased play time in the first set of the next match (if during tournament) or in-practice conditioning as deemed appropriate by their coach (for all other instances).
- Disrespectful behavior of any kind to coaches, director, team members or opponents.
  - Decreased play time in the first set of the next match (if during tournament) or in-practice conditioning as deemed appropriate by their coach (for all other instances).
- Cell phone use during tournament or practice times. Cell phones will remain in the silent position during practice and can only be used AFTER the final team huddle. Cell phones are prohibited during tournaments. Coaches will collect phones before tournaments, so please leave phones at home or with a parent.
  - The phone will immediately be collected by the coach and returned to the player’s parent, or player if parent is not in attendance, at the end of the function. In addition, the player will not start the first set of the next match (if during tournament) or the player will have in-practice conditioning as deemed appropriate by their coach.
- Arriving late to any team function. Players are expected to arrive fifteen minutes prior to practice start time and one hour prior to tournament start time. In addition, the player must be ready to participate and dressed in the appropriate attire by the start time.
  - Player will not start the first set of the next match (if during tournament) or player will have in-practice conditioning as deemed appropriate by their coach.
  - If a player misses the practice immediately preceding a tournament, the player will sit out the entire first set of the first match of that tournament.
- Failing to notify your coach of upcoming absences. Players must notify their coach in advance as soon as they know they are going to be late or absent from a team function.



- Excused absences are due to illness, injury, or death. Examples of unexcused absences are birthdays and non-academic related appointments (i.e. driver's license appointment, football games).
- In addition to the consequences obtained from missing/arriving late to an event, the player will have in-practice conditioning as deemed appropriate by their coach.

***Consistent failure to abide by the rules above will result in suspension or termination from the club and forfeiture of paid tuition.***

### ***Tournament Protocol for Players***

- Travel:
  - Unless otherwise stated, travel to and from tournaments is the responsibility of the player's parent.
- Find your team:
  - Prior to a tournament, coaches will establish a designated meeting place and time at the tournament facility. It is the player's responsibility to be at this place by the meeting time and to notify their coach if they are unable to do so.
  - Players are the responsibility of their coach once they are in the designated meeting place for the duration of the tournament day. Players will be released back to their parents at the end of play on the same tournament day.
  - Players are to have limited contact with their parents during tournament day and are to stay with their team at all times.
- Find your court:
  - Dressed in full uniform prior to entering the gym.
  - All their belongings must fit in their team backpack, which they will carry themselves.
  - Walk to their court together as a team.
  - Locate a spot along a wall or under chairs to neatly place their backpacks together as a team.
- Restroom breaks:
  - May use the restrooms AFTER locating their court and placing their backpack.
  - Take at least one teammate with them to the restroom.
  - Tell their coach when they leave for and return from the restroom.
  - If an emergency arises during game play, the player must notify the coach and may take the Team Mom with them to the restroom.
- Food:
  - Must eat lunch with their team at the tournament facility in an area specified by their coach, parents are not to join.
  - Pack a nutritious lunch that travels well in a lunchbox.
    - No candy, soda, or other junk foods.
  - No food from concession stand until all player duties are finished for the day.
  - Packed healthy snacks can be consumed throughout the day.
  - Drink plenty of water throughout the day. Have a beverage for lunch and a bottle to keep on the bench.
  - Clean up all trash and crumbs after consuming food.
- Overnight tournament procedure if the team is staying together in a hotel/house:
  - Players are released to and the responsibility of the team chaperones at the end of the tournament day.
  - Respect the team chaperones as they would their coach.



- Will not leave the hotel room unless each player in the room is leaving WITH the chaperone as a whole.
- Follow the Club cell-phone-use policy:
  - All cell phones will be turned in at 9pm, returned to players for review in the morning, and then left in the hotel room safe upon departure for the gym.
- Follow the “lights out” policy established by their coach.
- Responsible for personal hygiene.
- Responsible for waking up early enough to be ready to leave for the gym by the designated time.
- Responsible for packing and making their lunch and snacks for the next day.
- Must eat something in the morning before game play, even if they typically do not eat breakfast.

It is also important that the supporting members of the team (parents and coaches) conduct themselves in a manner demonstrating the same high standards.

***Parents will pledge their cooperation as follows:***

- Place the emotional & physical well-being of your child ahead of your personal desire to win.
- Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every practice and tournament.
- Insist your child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- Support coaches and officials working with your child to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- Demand a sports environment that is free of drugs, tobacco and alcohol and refrain from their use.
- Remember that the game is for young athletes and not adults.
- Treat others and ask your daughter to treat others with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
- Be a respectful fan, assisting with duties to help the club such as transportation and other responsibilities.
- Support your coach, team and daughter. At all times, be a supportive parent.
- No parent may approach a coach or coaching staff with negative input until 24 hours after a competition is completed. At that point, a meeting can be arranged with the director, coach, parent and player to communicate concerns.
- Please do not take up court time talking with your athlete’s coach. Do so after practice has ended. The coach is to be focused on the practice plan and on the court with their team!

***General Guidelines for all:***

Players, coaches and parents MUST familiarize themselves with general knowledge of AAU volleyball rules and regulations.

Players, parents and coaches are responsible for leaving all facilities, including practice facilities, in clean condition. Coolers will not be allowed in the facilities in which we play.

We need a positive commitment from coaches, players and parents!

**\*\*\*Please see Signature page addendum\*\*\***



## ***Participation Agreement Terms - Volleytech Academy***

**Part 1: Conditions of Participation:** I have read the enclosed information concerning the practices and policies of the VTA. I agree, upon selection to a given team to participate in the 2018/19 Club season with VTA. We understand that we are responsible for **all** fees due by the player for tuition as well as her transportation to and from practices and matches and meal expenses, which are outside of the tuition. We understand the time commitment involved in practices and competition. We also understand we must pay **all** fees in full regardless of the duration of participation. We understand the commitment we are making to the club and are willing to commit to this program and teammates for the 2018/19 season.

**Part 2 Tuition Fees:** We accept membership for VTA on the designated team for the 2018/19 season and agree to pay the tuition fees in the amount of **Premier/\$2,600.00, Elite/\$2,250.00, National/\$1,500.00, AAU/\$1,200.00, AAU 12's/\$550.00**; also identified on the Signature Payment Addendum attached, associated with this team. Membership entitles the member to **participate** in practices and tournaments as designated by VTA. At practices, there will be equal opportunity to participate, **however**, at tournaments, court time is **NOT** guaranteed, but will be determined by your coach. A payment to VTA will be paid on the stated payment due dates for the balance owed.

A late and returned check fees: \$30 late fee and \$50 returned check fee. IF a player does not pay their dues, they are not allowed to participate in practices or tournaments until their dues are paid. If your dues are not paid in full for a club season, you will not be allowed to participate in the following club season.

By use of the facilities provided by VTA, the member agrees that VTA shall not be liable for any damages arising from personal injuries sustained by a member, parent, or guest on the premises of **any** VTA facility. VTA shall not be responsible for any loss or theft of personal property. Members assume full responsibility for any injuries, damages or losses which occur to any and all claims, damages, rights of action or causes from action, present or future, whether the same be known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, resulting from or arising out of the member or guests' use of intended use of the facilities or equipment provided.

Members agree that they are in good physical condition and that she has no disability, impairment or ailment that prevents her from engaging in activity or passive exercise that will be detrimental in any way to her health, safety, comfort or physical condition in which she participates. It is recommended that every athlete consult her own physician before beginning any exercise program with VTA.

Members shall not be relieved of their financial obligations by reason of absence or withdrawal of the member from VTA or failure to attend practices or tournaments. **We understand that our daughter's club dues are not refundable if we choose not to participate. If we choose not to participate, but have not completed paying the club dues, we understand we will be responsible for the remainder of the club dues.**

We understand that in addition to our daughter's club dues, we will be responsible for paying for all transportation to and from practices, scrimmages and tournaments and that we will also be responsible for hotel fees at overnight tournaments. **We understand that these fees are in addition to our VTA Club dues and that they can be significant.**

The laws of the state will govern this agreement. This supersedes all prior oral and written reorientations or communications between the parties and constitutes the entire understanding of the parties regarding the subject matter of this agreement and may only be modified or amended by a written supplement signed by both parties.

**\*\*\*Please see Signature page addendum\*\*\***



**Signature Page Addendum**

**VolleyTech Academy Photo/Video Release**

- Yes, I hereby grant permission to VolleyTech Academy (VTA) the right to take photographs and video of \_\_\_\_\_ and my family in connection with volleyball tournaments that I participate in as a member of VTA Volleyball Club. I authorize VTA, to copyright, use and publish the same in print and/or electronically for purposes of publicity, social media, and advertising.
- No, I do not grant permission for photos and/or video to be taken of my athlete or family.

**Athlete & Parent Code of Conduct - Volleytech Academy**

***I agree to the terms in their entirety on Pg 2.***

**Participation Agreement - Volleytech Academy**

***I agree to the terms in their entirety on Pg 6, including but not limited to Tuition in the amount of circle level of choice:***

**Premier/\$2,600.00 - Elite/\$2,250.00 - Comp/\$1,700.00 -**

**National/\$1,500.00 -AAU 14's /\$1,200.00 AAU 12's/\$550.00**

*Undersigned has received and read, understood and agrees to abide by, and will cause family members and guests to abide by the rules and regulations of VolleyTech Academy as they now exist and as they may from time to time be amended or supplemented.*

Date: November \_\_\_\_\_, 2018

Athlete's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Athlete's printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_