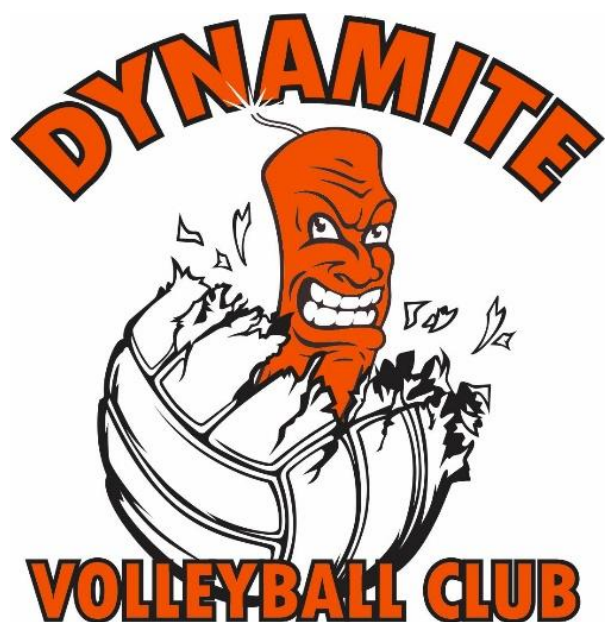




PLAYER AND PARENT HANDBOOK

DYNAMITE VOLLEYBALL CLUB TAMPA

INTRODUCTION

Dynamite Volleyball Club Tampa welcomes you to the 2026-2027 season. We are excited to have you as part of our volleyball family. Here at DVC, we believe communication is vital to our success, and our experience has proven that the best way for us to ensure that all Directors, Coaches, Parents and Athletes are on the same page is to clearly present to you, in writing, all our expectations upfront. Our goal is to have an incident free season. So, it is vital that both parents and players take the time to read through the following, so you may all understand the expectations for this upcoming season.

ABOUT US

Founded in 2018 by Mr. Carlos Rolon, **Dynamite Volleyball Club Tampa (DVC)** aims to serve the Tampa Bay Area community with a high level of commitment and integrity. We firmly believe that we are training athletes to reach their full potential. So, every day we strive to help our athletes gain self-confidence and self-esteem, understand athletic challenges and good sportsmanship, and grow into fine young people and athletes.

Volleyball can open many doors for student athletes, whether providing scholarships for financial assistance for college or helping to strengthen their resume to get accepted to a particular school or job, volleyball can be a springboard to help launch an athlete's future. Here at DVC, we are very proud to be a part of this process, and love nothing more than to see our athletes achieve their dreams.

We offer a very family-friendly environment here at DVC, and have amazing, supportive families that continue to choose DVC year after year. We thank you for your commitment to our vision, your support of our program, and your faith in us to help mold your athletes to be great people both on and off the court. We take our job very seriously, and we are continuously striving to improve our methods of training and build a legacy of excellence here at DVC, and we're so glad you've chosen to be a part of it.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Club Director: Carlos Rolón

Website: www.dvctampa.org

DVC General Email: dynamitevolleyballclubtampa@gmail.com

DVC Dispute / Grievances Email: dvctampacases@gmail.com

DVC General Ph #: 787-983-2881

Practice Locations:

1. Keystone Prep High School – 18105 Gunn Hwy, Odessa, FL 33556
2. Bible-Based Fellowship Church - 4811 Ehrlich Rd, Tampa, FL 33624

GENERAL POLICY FOR PLAYERS

All student athletes must follow the rules and requirements established by USA Volleyball, Florida Region Volleyball Association (FRVA), Florida Region of USAV, AAU Florida & **Dynamite Volleyball Club Tampa**. Failure to meet and abide by these requirements may result in your athlete being released from the program.

REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

- 1) Abide by all rules of the sport, including but not limited to training rules, policies, procedures, and player expectations established by the DVC program.
- 2) Exhibit a commitment to the achievement of athletic excellence.
- 3) Have good attendance, be a positive role model and maintain a 2.0 GPA or higher in school.
- 4) Attend all team practices, team meetings, team functions, and every day of each tournament, unless excused in advance by your coach.
- 5) Communication is necessary for the team to be successful. Your communication skills on and off the court will be assessed throughout the season, and any improvements needed will be addressed by your coach or a member of DVC staff.
- 6) All athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner while representing DVC. Determination of what is responsible manner lies solely with DVC.
- 7) The athlete must adhere to the USAV and AAU policies regarding drug and alcohol use and abuse. Consumption of alcohol and/or use of illegal drugs will not be tolerated.
- 8) Smoking of any kind, including but not limited to, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, vape pens and marijuana will not be tolerated.
- 9) If an athlete is participating in any of the activities listed above (7-8) while competing away from home, they may be sent home on the first available flight/bus at their own expense. In addition, all appropriate law enforcement, coaches, etc. may be notified.
- 10) DVC athletes that have any legal issues with other organizations and/or law enforcement will meet with their coach and DVC Club Director to discuss their participation at DVC, until their legal issues are settled/resolved.
- 11) Any athlete found responsible for damaging property or equipment owned by DVC, or any facility used by the club during practices, tournaments, or any other function, will be immediately suspended and could possibly be dismissed from the club. In addition, the athlete's responsible party will be required to pay for all damages before the athlete may be considered for reinstatement at the Club.
- 12) DVC athletes are always representing DVC, USA Volleyball, AAU Florida and the FRVA, both on and off the court. An athlete's reputation directly impacts DVC's reputation, so it is imperative that athletes always conduct themselves appropriately, especially while wearing DVC apparel.

- 13) All DVC athletes, families and supporters are expected to always conduct themselves in an appropriate and respectful manner while at tournaments and DVC events, including but not limited to, treating members of the various tournament/event staff and officiating crews with respect. (See Athlete and Parent Conduct at Tournaments/Practices for more details.)

ATHLETE & PARENT CONDUCT AT TOURNAMENTS / PRACTICES

At **Dynamite Volleyball Club Tampa**, leading by example, is a part of our core values. This begins with how athletes and parents conduct themselves at tournaments and practices. These guidelines are set forth to protect the safety and integrity of the players, parents, coaches, and DVC. However, they do not cover all situations which may occur. In the event of an incident not specified below, the Club Director will determine the appropriate action to be taken. You are all representatives of DVC, and how you conduct yourself is a direct reflection on the club.

Certain types of conduct from an athlete, parent, and/or supporter will not be tolerated at any DVC function/event. This includes a wide variety of circumstances, including but not limited to the following...

1. Use of foul language or rude gestures towards other athletes, parents, coaches, officials, etc
2. No parent is to talk with any other athlete, parent, coach, tournament staff, or referee in an argumentative or disrespectful manner.
3. Only the head coach or team captain, at the request of the coach, may question an official.
4. Parents are always to be supportive of their athletes and all DVC teams, especially during tournaments. At no time should parents question their athletes, or their teammates, about their performance or playtime.
5. Parents are not to “coach” any athletes, including their own, during tournaments. The athletes need to focus on what their coaches have to say, and do not need any distractions.
6. If a parent/guardian chooses to remove their athlete from a tournament, for any reason, without previous permission from the head coach, DVC will consider that athlete to have resigned from the club, and any balance owed to DVC will become due immediately.
7. Athletes are to always support their teammates and coaches during tournaments, whether they are playing or not. Poor bench behavior will not be tolerated. This includes not expressing verbal/vocal support for your teammates, conducting side conversations, taking other’s attention off the match, disrupting the match, questioning the coach about playing time during the match, etc.
8. At all times during tournaments, players are to wear only DVC issued uniforms/attire. No school attire, decorated team t-shirts, tournament gear, etc. is to be worn within the tournament venue. In addition, during travel tournaments the team will travel together from the hotel to playing sites, where applicable, dressed in the same, coordinated DVC club attire. At no time should an athlete be out of uniform, from the time they leave the hotel, until the time the

tournament is over. We want college coaches, our competition, parents, and spectators, all to recognize the DVC brand and your children.

9. DVC athletes are to wear DVC practice t-shirts during team practices. School attire or another club's attire are not to be worn to or from practices, including hoodies, sweatshirts, sweatpants, etc.
10. If any DVC teams are playing at the same tournament site, athletes and teams will be advised and encouraged to watch and cheer for other DVC teams.
11. Cell phones are to be turned off or put on always vibrate while at practice or a tournament. At no time should a player be on their phone during either of these times unless a specific exception is made by the coach for an emergency.

AAU Girls Volleyball Nationals Tournament Participation, Commitment and Agreement

All U13 Black, U14 Black, U15 Black, U16 Black, U17 Black, U18 Black Teams and All U13 Orange, U14 Orange, U15 Orange, U16 Orange, U17 Orange, and U18 Orange Teams will Participate at AAU Girls Volleyball National Tournament at the destination (Usually Orlando, FL) that AAU Organization select. **I agree to pay Dynamite Volleyball Club Tampa LLC the sum of \$2,000.00 if my daughter does not attend the AAU Girls National Volleyball Tournament for ANY REASON including but not limited to all medical reasons during the season 2026-2027 (medical surgeries, Terminal Illness, Parents/Sibling death, Player is on ICU are excusable reasons for this agreement and commitments to be invalid).** I commit to fulfil my financial obligations if my daughter decided not to play, attend, or drop from the team at any time before or during AAU Volleyball National Tournament. This agreement and financial obligation are additional to the financial obligations of the Team Regular Season Fee. Both financial obligations need to be fulfilled if a player leaves, abandons, parents remove them from a team, or parent/player request a release of the player from the club.

DISPUTE / GRIEVANCE PROCESS

The following process is in effect immediately and throughout the entire club season, if there is a dispute or grievance that needs to be resolved, whether regarding your athlete, another team member, a coach, parent, etc. This process must be adhered to by all.

- 1) Player/Parent will approach coach and ask to speak about an issue. The coach will then schedule a time to talk about the matter with the player/parent. The coach and player/parent will meet again, if needed, to see if the issue has been resolved.

- 2) If the issue has not been resolved, a player/parent meeting will be scheduled with the Club Director. The player and/or parent are to email Club Director at dvctampacases@gmail.com to schedule a time to meet and discuss the issue. In the email, they will specify the issues that they would like to discuss with the Club Director in detail. The director will review the concern, and meet with the coach, parent, and player to discuss. A follow-up meeting will ensure that the issue has been resolved.
- 3) If the issue still has not been resolved, **the Club Director's decision on the matter will be final.**
- 4) Parents are NOT authorized to speak, call, text, or request time to talk to a coach about an issue or grievance during practices, tournaments, games, or team bonding activities. Every issue or concern needs to be addressed in writing, by following the steps outlined above.

Please remember that our coaching staff is working hard to make each player better and each team successful. **Please show our entire staff at DVC the same respect that you would want to receive.**

EXPLUSIONS / SUSPENSIONS

While it is not the intent of DVC to suggest there will or could be problems, the mission and integrity of **Dynamite Volleyball Club Tampa** is our top priority. We have already identified in this document numerous situations that may warrant suspension, but we ask that you please use your common sense in all situations. Be advised that the head coach, assistant coach, and Club Director will all be involved in evaluating each situation, to ensure that all parties are treated fairly. Automatic expulsion may result in the following offenses, and all financial obligations must be paid in full:

- Smoking at any DVC function
- Using alcohol or drugs at any time during a DVC function
- Leaving lodging premises without notifying the Coach and without a chaperone
- Parents with non-sportsmanlike behavior, causing division within the teams, mistreating any player by yelling at them. (NOTE: This will be reviewed in case by case by the Club Director)
- Athletes with more than 8 total absences (Subject to coach and Club Director review)

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Dynamite Volleyball Club Tampa will enforce the practice and tournament attendance policy for every athlete. Please note that this is not intended to prevent an athlete from playing another sport while playing at DVC. However, failure to attend practices and tournaments may affect playing time.

We expect a very high attendance ratio at DVC. It is the responsibility of the player/parent to call, email or text the coach if you are going to be absent. If you are ill, it is understandable that you will not attend, and we prefer that you not to attend, to keep from getting other teammates sick. However, a call or text prior to practice is still in order. This notification should occur no later than the morning of practice, if possible, not one hour prior to practice starting. Our coaches plan drills and what they want each player to work on for each practice, and if a player is missing from practice, that will change the

plan in place. So, please be courteous and notify your coach as early as possible, to ensure they have time to adjust their plans, if needed. Remember, all practices count!

General Guidelines:

- 1) It is the responsibility of the athlete, or their parents, to call, text or email the coach of any scheduled team event that the athlete will be missing with at least ONE WEEK NOTICE for practices, and TWO WEEKS NOTICE for tournaments.
- 2) Attendance at National Qualifiers and FRVA Regionals is MANDATORY.
- 3) All Practices are MANDATORY. There are no exceptions for schoolwork or homework. It is the athlete's responsibility to balance schoolwork with practice.
- 4) Only an illness serious enough to keep the athlete home from school or a genuine family emergency is a legitimate excuse for missing practice.
- 5) If you have an important school event, it is always excused. However, please refer to #1 above for the notification expectations. The night before an activity is not in advance!
- 6) Missing any part of any tournament day counts as 1 absence.
- 7) All absences from practices and/or tournaments will be evaluated by the coach and Club Director on a case-by-case basis. It is imperative that proper documentation is provided.
- 8) Missing more than ½ of a practice counts as 1 absence. We will do our best to be flexible, when necessary, in situations resulting from school location/departure times, as well as location of residence in relation to the practice site.
- 9) If an athlete has eight (8) or more absences during the season, the coach and Club Director will conduct a review to determine if that athlete should remain with the team.
- 10) Injured athletes who can attend school are expected to attend practice to support their team and be available to help where they can, even if they cannot physically participate in the practice.

CONSEQUENCES

- Missing a practice in the week prior to tournament, the athlete will not play the first set after arrival at tournament. Special consideration could take place and will be evaluated case by case by the Club Director, Coach and Staff to make the proper decision.
- For every practice missed in addition to the first one, the player will not play the equal number of sets.

TEAM SELECTION

Athletes are evaluated on the following criteria but not necessarily in this order:

- Overall athletic potential
- Work ethics and drive

- Willingness to be coached.
- Competitive attitude
- Skill level
- Player's Position
- Leadership
- Needs of the team

EVALUATION PROCESS

- Tryouts for each age group are scheduled and completed over one or two days.
- The tryout fee covers all scheduled tryouts.
- DVC coaches will be involved in the tryout selections.
- All players will be given an equal opportunity.
- No athlete will be offered a position without trying out.
- Skill is not the only factor considered.
- Teams need to be balanced with all positions, so the position that you play may be a factor.
- Attitude and leadership are also taken into consideration.

Players should never assume because they were on a certain level team for one year, they will automatically be on an equal level team the following year. Every year, we reassess each athlete in the Club. In addition, the staff is continuously evaluating athletes we see, whether in our club or another, on a high school team, at camps, even at other sporting events. So, each athlete must come to the tryouts ready to compete for a place on a team. We select athletes for teams because they show the ability or potential, in our opinion, to help those teams compete successfully. (NOTE: An athlete with a limiting physical or medical condition should talk to the Club Director or Tryout Coordinator prior to the start of the tryout period).

Teams are selected by coaches, who review all available physical testing data, skills test results, and observe the quality of play during tryouts. Athletes are strongly encouraged to attend ALL tryout sessions for his or her age group. Athletes must be registered and ready to start on time. Athletes who miss sessions will have fewer opportunities to showcase their skills.

All players will be required to tryout for their appropriate age level, based on the USAV and AAU age definition guidelines. Only DVC Staff will make the determination if a player will be asked to play up to their age level.

It is the player's responsibility to communicate with coaches, prior to team selection, regarding activities that may cause potential conflicts at any time during the season. Coaches may choose not to select players because of commitments to other sports/activities and are encouraged to ask all players about potential schedule conflicts. Once teams are selected, any coach pressuring athletes to quit other activities will not be tolerated. However, the attendance policy is still in effect, and any missed practices or tournaments could affect playing time.

At DVC, our goal is to have 8-10 players on each team, but in some extenuating circumstances, we may authorize up to a maximum of 12 players. Team selections will be made based on each player's abilities, potential, past performance, and personal characteristics, as well as positions played and team chemistry. Carpooling requests will not be considered during team selection, nor will any personal relationships, school affiliations, or other allegiances.

PLAYER-TEAM MOVEMENT

On occasion, we may move an athlete from one team to another. Movement is at the sole discretion of **Dynamite Volleyball Club Tampa**. However, we will not move an athlete to another team without discussing the move with the coaches, the athlete, and the athlete's parents.

PRACTICES

The purpose of practice is to prepare a group of individual players to be successful as a team in competitions. A player spends much more time at practice than at a tournament, and their commitment and focus on practice is vital to the success of the team. A team will not be able to play at a championship level unless that level is set at every practice.

Practice is where we develop habits to attain success. These habits are developed in many areas, with a strong focus on work ethic and skill development. Said habits allow each player to perform at a high level without thought or hesitation. The practice setting is where championship teams are trained and developed. Nothing magical will happen in a tournament that has not been executed in the practice gym countless times before. Simply put, if you have not perfected it in practice, then do not expect it to happen during the intensity of a tournament.

The lessons and habits learned in practice can be good or bad. They can assure success or guarantee failure. Our coaches want their teams to be successful and to win, which is why planning, preparation, practice workload, and team commitment are vital to the success of every team.

#1 RULE: EARLY IS ON TIME, ON TIME IS LATE, AND LATE IS UNACCEPTABLE.

Please arrive early enough to set up your courts including nets, lines, balls, equipment, etc. You will also need to be dressed, with shoes on, and completely ready for practice by the start time. This usually requires arriving no less than 15 minutes before the start time. Parents/Players must account for traffic and allow enough time to have players at the practice site 15 minutes prior to practice. If an athlete is late arriving to practice, they must change into their practice gear, report to the coach, and explain why they are late. The coach, at his or her sole discretion, determines if any corrective action needs to be taken.

PRACTICE GUIDELINES

- The athlete is expected to work her hardest in every task. We ask that each athlete give us their very best effort every time.
- The athlete must be coachable, willing to adjust technical skills, and display a positive attitude toward practice, teammates, coaches, and staff always.
- Players will not wear jewelry in practice or at tournaments.
- Players must keep their hair pulled back out of their face.
- **Players will not leave practice until all tasks have been completed and their coach has released them.**
- Players and coaches must wear current, team issued, DVC apparel to all practices and tournaments.
- Athletes are encouraged to bring water in an unbreakable container to practices and tournaments. Absolutely no glass containers are allowed in the practice facilities.
- Volleyball shoes are carried into the practices and worn only for practice. This is to ensure that the shoes last longer and the courts remain clean.
- Practices are open to anyone interested in observing. In fact, we strongly encourage parents and others to watch practices. However, observers are to stay in designated areas.

TOURNAMENTS

Dynamite Volleyball Club Tampa tournament participation is **MANDATORY**. Tournaments give athletes the chance to compete at higher levels, develop their court skills, and strengthen their knowledge of the game. They also give the athlete a chance to be seen by college scouts, and the success of our team training depends upon all members of the team being present.

Tournament agendas, lodging arrangements and other important travel information will be provided to each player as soon as DVC has received the information from the tournament directors. We prefer to do most of our communication through GroupMe, e-mail and our website. We will post tournament information for each team on the website as soon as it is available.

All tournament schedules will be finalized by the middle of October for all teams, apart from USAV Nationals. We may not know until May if your team has qualified for USAV Nationals. A tentative tournament schedule for each team will be posted on our website by the second or third week of August for the season ahead. Tournaments are held mostly on weekends from January through May. For any teams who qualify for USAV Nationals or are playing in AAU Nationals, their season will be over at the end of June.

Most tournaments are played using a round-robin pool play format. Each team will play at least three matches, and possibly more depending on the tournament. Some, but not all, tournaments use pool play matches to determine seeding for elimination play, but the exact format varies both by tournament and age group. Most one-day events begin at 8:00am and may finish as late as 9:00pm.

Multiple-day tournaments offer flights which means one age group may begin at 8:00am finishing as late as 3:00pm, and a second flight for other age groups will begin at 2:00pm or 3:00pm and finish as late as 11:00pm. On the final day, most teams will begin at 8:00am and may finish as late as 5:00pm.

On tournament days, it is imperative to follow the direction given by your coach/team rep regarding arrival times. Typically, players should arrive at the tournament site, no less than 1 hour before the first match or work assignment and should be at the court stretching at least 45 minutes prior to the match. About 30 minutes before game time, the team should be warming up indoors wherever possible, and with a volleyball, if space and tournament rules permit.

All players must wear Dynamite Volleyball Club Tampa logo items, not your high school or favorite college team sweatshirts or sweatpants.

During the tournament, each team **MUST** stay together and must advise their coach if the player will be leaving the site to obtain food. Be aware of match schedules and when your team plays, referees, or rests. Sometimes, after the last match of the pool play, a team may need to play in a playoff game. Make sure that you know if a playoff will occur prior to leaving the tournament site. In addition, you may need to ref a match after you've played your final match. So, it is imperative that you check-in with your coach and team rep, prior to leaving.

Teams are typically placed into pools with three to five teams. Each team plays every other team in its pool once. Teams not scheduled to play will either be reefing or enjoying a rest period. The rest period should be used for meals (refer to nutritional guidelines). In many tournaments, the top two teams in each of the pools will advance to the Gold Bracket. Teams will also accrue points based on their standings in each tournament. The points are used to seed teams at FRVA and AAU Championships. Teams can only earn a bid to the USAV Junior National Championship by winning or placing high at "national qualifier" tournaments.

TRANSPORTATION

All travel tournaments — parents are responsible for transporting the players to and from the hotel and playing site(s). Due to liability issues, coaches are not allowed to transport players. Flight travel for out-of-state tournaments is at the discretion of the parents.

Athletes need to arrive in the city, state, or country we are playing in, by no later than 9:00pm on the night prior to the first day of the tournament and check in with the coach/team rep.

Traveling on the day of the tournament is not acceptable due to unexpected issues that could arise, such as having a flat tire, flight delays, traffic delays, etc., which could result in the player not being there on time for the tournament. If a parent makes the decision to travel on the day of the tournament, the player will not play in the first game of that tournament, no exceptions.

USAV AND AAU NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

It is the goal of **Dynamite Volleyball Club Tampa** to send all teams in each age group to the USAV National Championships (if qualified) and/or AAU National Championships each year. These championships are held in mid to late June. It is the athlete's family's responsibility, prior to accepting an offer to join a team, to notify the team's head coach if they are not willing or able to attend the USAV or AAU National Championship tournaments. DVC reserves the right to add athletes to the roster of a team that has qualified for USAV or is attending AAU Nationals, to field a complete, competitive team as permitted by USAV/AAU rules.

FORMS

All athletes must have the following documents and forms completed and signed by a player and parent or guardian before they will be allowed to practice with their DVC team...

- 1) USAV & AAU Membership Form
- 2) USAV Emergency Medical Release Form
- 3) DVC Player/Parent Contract
- 4) Volleyball Club Agreement and Financial Commitment Form with Dynamite Volleyball Club
- 5) FIELDLEVEL Recruitment Profile
- 6) Copy of Birth Certificate, Driver License or Passport

*All forms can be found on our website www.dvctamp.org/forms

OFFICIATING

Officiating is the shared responsibility of the entire team. All DVC athletes are required to help with line judging, score keeping, score flipping, and officiating. Except in a true emergency, all athletes on the team must stay at the tournament until the officiating assignment is completed by all team members, regardless of whether they are the ones officiating.

WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis as to whether to cancel a practice and will be made by DVC and/or the team coach. If school is cancelled, then our practices will be cancelled.

TEAM REPS / VOLUNTEERS

Dynamite Volleyball Club Tampa relies heavily on our parent volunteers for each team, to assure that travel, tournament schedules, club communications, team video/photography, team/coach snack and meals, etc. are taken care of, when applicable. Most of these responsibilities typically rest on the "Team Rep/Parent". However, DVC also recognizes that sometimes there is a lot to be done, and it can sometimes be overwhelming. So, if you have a desire to serve, please reach out to your Team Rep and let them know how you can help.

CLUB FEES AND PAYMENTS

Dynamite Volleyball Club Tampa player fees will be processed through our website. Each family will create an account on the website (www.dvctampa.org/payments), select the desired payment, and process said payments. Parents, Custodian or person in charge of the minor is fully responsible for the financial commitment accepted for having the child enrolled at Dynamite Volleyball Club Tampa

If you are electing to pay on a payment plan, it is important to note that all payments are due on the due date specified. We do allow a 5-day grace period. However, any payments received after the 5-day grace period are subject to a \$25.00 late fee, which must be paid at the same time the monthly payment is made.

DYNAMITE VOLLEYBALL CLUB TAMPA, LLC

Club Release Policy

If an athlete/family decides to depart **Dynamite Volleyball Club Tampa** during the respective season, the following steps must take place:

Release Policy:

STEP 1 - The athlete/family in question must submit a written request for release to the Club Director, **Carlos Rolon**, at dvctampacases@gmail.com and to the Florida Region at membership@FloridaVolleyball.org stating the reason for the request.

Club may deny request for release of the athlete.

STEP 2 – If club approves release of the athlete.

1. All financial obligations agreed upon contractually must be paid in full before the athlete is approved to be released.
2. Payment Option – Cashier's check or money order
3. Once payment is received by cashier's check or money order the club will send an email to the Florida Region at membership@floridavolleyball.org approving release of the named athlete.

The club may agree to waive the requirements above on a case-by-case basis.

Transfer Policy: A player can represent only one club during the Season. A change in the 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.

Once an athlete has participated in a **National Qualifier Event (Regional or NQ)** they may not be released for the rest of the season to another club. Please refer to the USA Volleyball (USAV) Championship Manual on releases for athletes that participate in regional or national qualifying/bid events.

Parent Name (Print)

Parent Signature

Date:

Player Team Abandonment Policy –

If an athlete leaves the team at any time during the season or a parent removes their daughter from the team, for any reason, the following steps must take place:

*****Abandon a Team** = Players who decided not to continue playing in the team or Parents withdrawing a player from the team for the rest of the season or at any time during the season for ANY REASON. Players abandon the team during a tournament and do not finish the tournament, player who don't show to practice during 3 consecutive times without a reasonable excuse.

STEP 1 - Parents or any adult in charge of the minor must submit a written explanation to Club Director, Carlos Rolon, at dvctampacases@gmail.com stating the reason to abandon the team:

STEP 2 - Dynamite Volleyball Club Director will evaluate the reason presented in the parent written statement and will only approve a player separation for the club in the following circumstances:

1. Family (Parents and players) are moving out of state and only by providing a notarized form where stated the new address, the date of moving out of the state and a Driver license stating new address.

STEP 3 - The Club does not approve any abandonment from players to any teams on any level of play under any circumstance other than the one described in Step 2 point #1. The following conditions must take place if a player abandons a team:

- Parents or the adults in charge of the minor must pay all financial obligations to Dynamite Volleyball Club including but not limited,

1. Player club team fee (depending on the level),
2. All balance due at the time of abandoning the team must be at \$0.00 balance.
3. Return all gears and uniforms.
4. Players will not be eligible to return to the team after abandoning the team.

REFUND POLICY

Dynamite Volleyball Club Tampa reserves the right to cancel any camp, clinic, lesson, or club team due to a lack of enrollment. A full refund will be provided, if applicable. Here are a few additional scenarios...

- Withdraw two weeks or more prior to the start of a **camp/clinic** - A full refund will be provided (minus a \$50.00 administration fee).
- Withdraw within two weeks of the start of a **camp/clinic**: 50% of the registration fees will be refunded. Note: Should a replacement athlete be available a full refund will be provided (minus a \$50.00 administration fee).
- Once the **camp/clinic** has started, no refunds will be provided.
- No refunds are provided for the club volleyball season for any reason, since the loss of an athlete cannot be easily replaced once all club athletes have committed to their teams. However, participants of DVC who must withdraw due to personal injury may receive a pro-rated refund, and DVC will not pursue the remainder of any amounts due to injured players (Will required medical certification). These requests must be made in writing, sent to dvctampacases@gmail.com.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

Federal Law and Florida State Law prohibit sexual harassment in the workplace. **Dynamite Volleyball Club Tampa** is also fully committed to preventing sexual harassment in its program. The following guidelines are provided by USA Volleyball:

1. Coaches will not engage in sexual harassment.
2. Sexual harassment is sexual solicitation, physical advances or verbal or nonverbal conduct that is sexual in nature and that either:
 - a. is unwelcome, is offensive or creates a hostile environment and the coach knows or is told this.
 - b. is sufficiently severe or intense to be abusive to a reasonable person in the context.
3. Sexual harassment can consist of a single intense or severe act or of multiple persistent or persuasive acts.
4. Coaches will treat sexual-harassment complainants and respondents with dignity and respect.
5. Coaches will not deny an athlete the right to participate based upon them having made, or being the subject of, sexual harassment claims.

OTHER HARASSMENTS

Coaches will not engage in behavior that is harassing or demeaning to people with whom they interact with in their work, based on factors such as a person's age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language, or socioeconomic status.

CONCUSSION POLICY

In accordance with Florida law, and National playing rules published by the NFHS, any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest and shall not return to play until an appropriate health care professional has determined that no concussion has occurred. [NOTE: An appropriate health care professional may include a licensed physician (MD/DO) or another licensed individual under the supervision of a licensed physician, such as a nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, or certified athletic trainer, who has received training in concussion evaluation and management].

No athlete is allowed to return to a game or practice on the same day that a concussion (1) has been diagnosed OR (2) cannot be ruled out. Any athlete diagnosed with a concussion must be cleared medically by an appropriate health care professional prior to resuming participation in any future practice or contest. The formation of a gradual return to play protocol shall be a part of medical clearance.

MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES

The following SafeSport Club Policies are provided by USA Volleyball and fully supported by DVC.

These policies shall apply to the following: (Collectively referenced as "Applicable Adult")

- 1) All adult staff, board and members at a facility that is either partially or fully under the jurisdiction of a **FLORIDA REGION CLUB**.
- 2) All adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors.
- 3) Any adult authorized by **Dynamite Volleyball Club Tampa** that may have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor.



USA***Volleyball***

MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES (“MAAPP”)

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INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Center for SafeSport (the Center) is committed to building a sport community where Participants can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of emotional, physical, and sexual misconduct. The most commonly used terms throughout this document are defined in the Terminology section in the back of this document.

AUTHORITY

The Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 authorizes the Center to develop training and policies to prevent abuse—including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse—within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. 36 U.S.C. § 220542(a)(1). Federal law requires that, at a minimum, national governing bodies and paralympic sports organizations *must offer and give consistent training related to the prevention of child abuse: (1) to all adult members who are in regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors and (2) subject to parental consent, to members who are minors.* 36 U.S.C. § 220542(a)(3). Federal law requires that these policies contain reasonable procedures to limit unobservable and uninterrupted one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete, who is a minor, and an adult, who is not the minor’s legal guardian, at facilities under the jurisdiction of organizations within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. 36 U.S.C. § 220542(a)(2). To that end, the Center has developed the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (“MAAPP”).

What is MAAPP?

The MAAPP is a collection of proactive prevention and training policies for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. It has four primary components:

1. Organizational Requirements for Education & Training and Prevention Policies;
2. An Education & Training Policy that requires training for certain Adult Participants within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement;
3. Required Prevention Policies, focused on limiting one-on-one interactions between Adult Participants and Minor Athletes that Organizations within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement must implement to prevent abuse;
4. Recommended Prevention Policies.

The Center developed the MAAPP to assist National Governing Bodies (NGBs), Local Affiliated Organizations (LAOs), the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), and other individuals to whom these policies apply in meeting their obligations under federal law (*Note: implementing these policies does not guarantee that an organization or individual fully complies with federal law or all applicable legal obligations*). These Organizations should share these policies with all Participants and with parents/guardians of minor athletes. Those implementing these policies should consider the physical and cognitive needs of all athletes.

The MAAPP focuses on just two important aspects of a much larger comprehensive abuse prevention strategy. These policies address training requirements and limiting one-on-one interactions between adults and minor athletes. These policies are intended to be enforceable and reasonable, acknowledging, for example, that when a 17-year-old athlete turns 18, they become an adult athlete, and

a complete prohibition of one-on-one interactions may not be necessary or practical. Additionally, there may be other instances when one-on-one interactions could occur, and in those cases, these policies provide strategies so parents/guardians can provide informed consent if they choose to allow a permitted interaction. **The Center recommends that parents first complete training on abuse prevention to be informed about potential boundary violations and concerns before consenting to the interaction.** While the MAAPP will help organizations implement these policies to greatly improve minor athlete safety, in no way can they guarantee athlete safety in all circumstances, especially when the policies are not fully implemented, followed, or monitored. These policies are not comprehensive of all prevention strategies, nor are they intended to be. These policies should be implemented alongside the [SafeSport Code](#). Additionally, other resources are available that may assist organizations in improving athlete safety.¹

How Does the Center Ensure Compliance with the MAAPP?

Federal law requires the Center to conduct regular and random audits of the NGBs to ensure compliance with these policies. 36 U.S.C. § 220542(a)(2)(E). More specific organizational compliance requirements can be found in Part I. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the USOPC and each NGB, LAO, and Adult Participant to comply with the MAAPP. The aforementioned Organizations can address violations of the MAAPP by Adult Participants in their respective programs. Adult Participants also have an independent responsibility to comply with these MAAPP provisions. Violations of these provisions can result in sanctions under the SafeSport Code.

¹ Saul, J., & Audage, N. C. (2007). Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Within Youth-serving Organizations: Getting Started on Policies and Procedures. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Canadian Centre for Child Protection. (2014). Child Sexual Abuse: It Is Your Business. Winnipeg, Manitoba: Canadian Centre for Child Protection.

The Australian Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. (2017). Final Report.

Is the MAAPP Different from the SafeSport Code?

Yes. The [SafeSport Code](#) works alongside the MAAPP to prevent abuse. The MAAPP includes proactive prevention policies for organizations and individuals, while the SafeSport Code contains misconduct policies for individuals. However, violations of the MAAPP can violate the SafeSport Code, and violators who are also Participants can be sanctioned.

SCOPE

The MAAPP Applies to “In-Program Contact” Within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement

The MAAPP, or a policy containing the minimum required components of the MAAPP, is required for the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), National Governing Bodies (NGB), and Local Affiliated Organizations (LAO) within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement (each an “Organization”).

Some policies impose requirements on Organizations at sanctioned events and facilities partially or fully under the Organization’s jurisdiction. For example, Organizations must monitor locker rooms at their facilities and sanctioned events. Other policies impose certain requirements on Adult Participants under the Organization’s jurisdiction when the Adult Participant is having “In-Program Contact.” For example, Adult Participants cannot have one-on-one meetings with a Minor Athlete unless it is observable and interruptible.

Who is a Minor Athlete?

A **Minor Athlete** is 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 USA Volleyball and its LAOs.²

Partial or Full Jurisdiction: Includes any sanctioned event (including all travel and lodging in connection with the event) by USA Volleyball and its LAOs, or any facility that USA Volleyball or its LAOs owns, leases, or rents for practice, training, or competition.

² This term shall also include any minor who participates in, or participated within the previous 12 months in, a nonathlete role partially or fully under the jurisdiction of an NGB, USOPC, or LAO. Examples include, but are not limited to: officials, coaches, or volunteers.

Who is an Adult Participant?

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

1. A member or license holder of USA Volleyball;
2. An employee or board member of USA Volleyball or its LAOs;
3. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USA Volleyball or its LAOs;
4. Authorized, approved, or appointed by USA Volleyball or its LAOs to have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes.³

What is In-Program Contact?

In-Program Contact includes sanctioned events and facilities, but it also applies more broadly to sport-related interactions. **The MAAPP defines “In-Program Contact” as:**

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

Examples of activities related to participation in sport that could be identified as 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.

Am I required to take SafeSport Training?

Certain Adult Participants within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement who have (i) regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors, (ii) authority over amateur athletes who are minors, or (iii) are employees or board members of USA Volleyball and its LAOs are required to take training. The specific training requirements can be found in Part II.

³ 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.

PART I ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING AND PREVENTION POLICIES

All NGBs, LAOs, and the USOPC, in this case “USA Volleyball”, must implement proactive policies designed to prevent abuse. These organizational requirements are described below.

A. Organizational Requirements for Education & Training

1. USA Volleyball must track whether Adult Participants under its jurisdiction complete the required training listed in Part II.
2. USA Volleyball must, every 12 months, offer and, subject to parental consent, give training to minor athletes on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
 - a. For training to minor athletes, USA Volleyball must track a description of the training and how the training was offered and provided to minor athletes.
 - b. USA Volleyball is not required to track individual course completions of minor athletes.
3. USA Volleyball must, every 12 months, offer training to parents on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
 - a. For training to parents, USA Volleyball must track a description of the training and how the training was offered and provided to parents.
 - b. USA Volleyball is not required to track individual course completions of parents.

B. Required Prevention Policies and Implementation

1. USA Volleyball must develop minor athlete abuse prevention policies to limit one-on-one interactions between a Minor Athlete and an Adult Participant. These policies must contain the mandatory components of the Center’s model policies in Part III. These model policies cover:
 - a. Meetings
 - b. Individual training sessions
 - c. Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities and Manual Therapy
 - d. Locker rooms and changing areas
 - e. Electronic communications
 - f. Transportation
 - g. Lodging and Residential Environments
2. The policies must be approved by the Center as described in subsection (C) below. The policies may include the recommended components in Part III and the recommended policies in Part IV. Given the uniqueness of each sport, however, some recommended components or policies may not be feasible or appropriate. Such concerns should be addressed with the Center during the Policy Approval and Submission Process discussed below. USA Volleyball may choose to implement stricter standards than the model policies.
3. USA Volleyball must also require that its LAOs implement these policies within each LAO.
4. USA Volleyball and its LAOs must implement these policies for all In-Program Contact.

- a. At sanctioned events and facilities partially or fully under its jurisdiction, the Organization must take steps to ensure the policies are implemented and followed.
- b. For In-Program Contact that occurs outside USA Volleyball's and LAOs' sanctioned event or facilities, implementing these policies means:
 - i. Communicating the policies to individuals under its jurisdiction;
 - ii. Establishing a reporting mechanism for violations of the policies;
 - iii. Investigating and enforcing violations of the policies.

5. USA Volleyball and its LAOs must have a reporting mechanism to accept reports that an Adult Participant is violating USA Volleyball's Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies. The Organization must appropriately investigate and resolve any reports received, unless the violation is reported to the Center and it exercises jurisdiction over the report. This requirement is in addition to requirements to report abuse under the SafeSport Code.

C. Policy Approval and Submission Process

1. USA Volleyball may adopt the mandatory minimum requirements of the MAAPP as-is or adapt it to fit their needs. Regardless, USA Volleyball must submit their policies to the Center at compliance@safesport.org for review and approval by April 1, 2024. The Center will approve, approve with modifications, or deny the policies. If the Center denies the proposed policy, the mandatory components of Part III of the Center's Model MAAPP become the default policy until the Center approves the policy.
2. USA Volleyball must require their LAOs to incorporate the mandatory components of Part III. USA Volleyball may require that their LAOs implement USA Volleyball policies, which may be more stringent than the policies in Part III.
3. The mandatory components of Part III will serve as the default policy for any Organization that fails to develop its own policy as required by this section.

Any changes made to USA Volleyball's MAAPP after the policy is approved must be submitted to the Center for approval. The previously approved MAAPP will remain in effect until written approval is provided to USA Volleyball from the Center.

PART II EDUCATION & TRAINING POLICY

A. Mandatory Child Abuse Prevention Training for Adult Participants

1. Adult Participants Required to Complete Training

- a. The following Adult Participants must complete the *SafeSport® Trained* Core Course through the Center's online training:
 - i. Adult Participants who have regular contact with any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor;
 - ii. Adult Participants who have authority over any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor;
 - iii. Adult Participants who are an employee or board member of USA Volleyball or its affiliate LAOs.

2. Timing of Training

Adult Participants must complete this training before regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor begins or within the first 45 days of either initial membership or upon beginning a new role subjecting the adult to this policy, whichever comes first.

3. Refresher Training

The above-listed Adult Participants must complete a refresher course every 12 months, beginning the calendar year after completing the *SafeSport® Trained* Core Course. Every four years, Adult Participants will complete the *SafeSport® Trained* Core Course training. Medical providers can take the Health Professionals Course in lieu of the *SafeSport® Trained* Core Course and are required to take the refresher courses on an annual basis if they meet the criteria for A(1).

B. Minor Athlete Training Must Be Offered

1. USA Volleyball, every 12 months, must offer and, subject to parental consent, give training to minor athletes on the prevention and reporting of child abuse. USA Volleyball offers this training in its welcome letter to members.
2. The Center offers youth courses, located at safesporttrained.org, that meet this requirement.

C. Parent Training Must Be Offered

1. USA Volleyball, every 12 months, must offer training to parents on the prevention and reporting of child abuse. USA Volleyball offers this training in its welcome letter to members.
2. The Center offers a parent course, located at safesporttrained.org, that meets this requirement.

D. Optional Training

1. Adult Participants serving in a volunteer capacity, who will **not** have regular contact with or authority over any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor, should take the Center's brief Volunteer

Course (or *SafeSport® Trained Core Course*) before engaging or interacting with any minor athlete(s).

2. USA Volleyball may provide training *in addition to* the *SafeSport® Trained Core Course*, although they cannot refer to this training as “SafeSport” training. **Training other than the SafeSport Trained Core Course or Refresher does not satisfy this policy.**

3. Parents of minor athletes are provided free online access to the Center’s parent course and are encouraged to take the training.

E. Exemptions and Accommodations

The Center’s online training courses contain information about various forms of abuse. The courses do not include graphic descriptions of abuse or show violent images or video. The content may be uncomfortable or trigger trauma for some participants.

1. Exemptions to the online training requirement may be requested by survivors of abuse and misconduct. Survivors of abuse can request an exemption by contacting USA Volleyball or can choose to contact the Center directly to request an exemption at exemptions@safesport.org. All exemptions granted by the Center or by USA Volleyball in this category are considered indefinite. The Center will track all requests for exemptions upon notification from USA Volleyball.

2. Exemptions to the online training requirement for reasons other than survivor of abuse and misconduct are limited to cognitive or physical disability or language barrier. Requests for these exemptions must be made by the individual to USA Volleyball. USA Volleyball will determine whether to grant the exemption. If USA Volleyball grants the exemption, it must track the exemption to ensure it is appropriately applied to the individual’s membership status. USA Volleyball must preserve documentation that the exemption was granted and for what duration.

3. The Center has several options available to assist individuals in completing the online training courses, including screen reader-compatible versions and course availability in several languages, including English, Spanish, French, Mandarin, Russian, German, and Japanese. If none of the available options will fit the individual’s needs, USA Volleyball may determine whether to grant an exemption.

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.

All one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible, except in emergency circumstances or with a documented exception.

EXCEPTIONS

There are certain relationships and situations in which one-on-one interactions may be allowed or necessary. This section identifies policy exceptions for close-in-age relationships, Personal Care Assistants, dual relationships, and emergencies.

The following exceptions are applicable within all Required Prevention Policies unless otherwise noted.

A. Mandatory Components

1. A Close-in-Age Exception

The purpose of this exception is to allow for continued relationships among athletes on the same team.

This exception allows for one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete if:

- a. The Adult Participant has **no** authority over the Minor Athlete; and
- b. The Adult Participant is not more than 4 years older (determined by birth date) than the Minor Athlete.

Note: This exception is different than the close-in-age exception in the [SafeSport Code](#) pertaining to misconduct.

2. Exceptions for Adult Participant Personal Care Assistants Working with a Minor Athlete

This exception exists for Adult Participants who also assist an athlete with activities of daily living and preparation for athletic participation.

This exception allows for one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete if the following requirements are met:

- a. the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Volleyball and/or its Region for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
- b. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and,
- c. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with USA Volleyball background screening policy.

3. Exceptions for Dual Relationships

This exception allows for one-on-one In-Program Contact when the Adult Participant has a relationship with a Minor Athlete that is outside of the sport program. The exception requires written consent of the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian at least annually. The consent must identify for which Required Prevention Policies the parent/guardian is allowing the one-on-one In-Program Contact.

4. Emergency Exception

This exception applies to all Required Prevention Policies for situations where an Adult Participant must violate requirement(s) of the MAAPP due to an emergency. Adult Participants must carefully consider whether specific circumstances meet the threshold of “emergency.” Adult Participants should document emergency situations in accordance with USA Volleyball’s protocols.

The Center recommends parents take training on child abuse prevention before providing consent to the above exceptions. The Center offers a free Parent Course at safesporttrained.org.

MEETINGS POLICY

Sexual abuse often happens when children are alone with their abusers. This section provides policies for meetings to limit one-on-one interactions between children and adults, including mental health care professionals and licensed health care providers.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

- a. Adult Participants must ensure that all In-Program meetings with Minor Athletes be observable and interruptible, unless an exception exists.

2. Meetings with licensed mental health care professionals and health care providers (other than athletic trainers⁴)

If a licensed mental health care professional, licensed health care provider, or a student under the supervision of 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 or its Region'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
- c. USA Volleyball or its Regions is notified that the professional or provider will be meeting with a Minor Athlete; and,
- d. The professional or provider obtains consent consistent with applicable laws and ethical standards, which can be withdrawn at any time.

B. Recommended Components

1. 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.

⁴ Athletic trainers who are covered under these policies must follow the "Manual Therapy and Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities" policy.

TRAINING SESSIONS POLICY

Some abusers will single out athletes for special one-on-one instruction. This kind of isolation provides opportunities for abuse to occur. This section establishes rules for individual and group training sessions to protect youth athletes from uncomfortable or unsafe situations.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult Participants must ensure all In-Program individual and group training sessions with a Minor Athlete be observable and interruptible unless an exception exists.

2. Consent

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

3. Parent Observation

Parents/guardians must be allowed to observe individual and group training sessions.

B. Recommended Components

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 and its Region'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.

MANUAL THERAPY AND THERAPEUTIC AND RECOVERY MODALITIES POLICY⁵

Many athletes require therapies to prevent or treat injuries. However, these treatment sessions can place children in vulnerable positions, especially if they involve physical contact with adults. This section establishes standards for therapeutic and recovery modalities and manual therapy to reduce the risk of inappropriate contact between youth and adults.

A. Mandatory Components

Note: Only the emergency exception applies within this policy.

1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult Participants must ensure that all In-Program Contact during manual therapy and therapeutic modalities and recovery modalities with Minor Athletes must be observable and interruptible.

2. Manual Therapy and Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities Requirements

Adult Participants must ensure all In-Program manual therapy and therapeutic and recovery modalities meet the following requirements:

- a. Have another Adult Participant physically present for the modality or manual therapy; and
- b. Have documented consent as explained in subsection (4) below; and
- c. Be performed with the Minor Athlete fully or partially clothed, ensuring that the breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals are always covered; and
- d. Allow parents/guardians in the room as an observer, except for competition or training venues that limit credentialing; and
- e. The provider must narrate the steps in the modality before taking them, seeking assent of the Minor Athlete throughout the process.

3. Consent

- a. Providers of manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities or USA Volleyball and its Regions, when applicable, must obtain consent at least annually from Minor Athletes' parents/guardians before providing any manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities.
- b. Minor Athletes or their parents/guardians can withdraw consent at any time.

⁵ Manual therapy and therapeutic and recovery modalities can be different for each sport. They can include, but are not limited to: first aid, massage, taping, cupping, stretching, cryotherapy, neuromuscular stimulations, electrical stimulation, or other modalities within the scope of a Healthcare Provider's credentials.

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 a manual therapy, therapeutic modality, or recovery modality.

2. When possible, techniques should be used to reduce physical touch of Minor Athletes.

3. Only licensed providers should administer manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities.

4. Coaches, regardless of whether they are licensed massage therapists, should not massage Minor Athletes.

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS POLICY

Young athletes may be especially vulnerable to abuse in changing areas where they are undressing and possibly showering. Appropriate monitoring is necessary in these areas to prevent abuse and other inappropriate conduct. This section outlines policies for locker rooms and changing areas to ensure privacy and safety.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult Participants must ensure that all 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, unless an exception exists.

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 remove their clothes or behave in a manner that intentionally or recklessly exposes their breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a Minor Athlete in a locker room or changing area.
- 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 its LAOs and the Adult Participant(s) must abide by this request.

3. Media and Championship Celebrations in Locker Rooms

- USA Volleyball and its Regions may permit recording or photography in locker rooms for the purpose of highlighting a sport or athletic accomplishment if:
- a. Parent/legal guardian consent has been obtained; and
 - b. USA Volleyball and its Regions approves the specific instance of recording or photography; and
 - c. Two or more Adult Participants are present; and
 - d. 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 detailed on page 14.

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

- a. USA Volleyball and its LAOs 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. USA Volleyball does not utilize changing rooms at its events. If USA Volleyball did utilize changing rooms, it would follow the above procedures.
- b. IF locker rooms, changing areas, or similar spaces are used at USA Volleyball events, USA Volleyball and its LAOs must monitor their use to ensure compliance with these policies at sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under USA Volleyball and its Region's jurisdiction.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY⁶

Technology has made it easier for teams to communicate and share information. Unfortunately, it also makes it easier for abusers to contact children without supervision or share inappropriate images and video. This section sets standards for appropriate electronic communications between youth and adults.

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, unless an exception exists.
- 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 on every communication.
 - 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 the Minor Athletes’ parents/guardians, another adult family member of the Minor Athletes, or another Adult Participant.

3. Content

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

4. Requests to Discontinue

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

⁶ Electronic communications include, but are not limited to: email, phone calls, videoconferencing, video coaching, texting, social media, or through any other electronic medium.

B. Recommended Components

1. Hours

Electronic communications should generally 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.

2. Social Media Connections

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

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Athletes are often carpooling or traveling without the supervision of their parent/guardian to practices and competitions. This can place them in vulnerable positions where they are susceptible to abuse. This section establishes policies for adults transporting children to or from sport activities.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult participants must ensure that all In-Program Contact during Transportation is Observable and Interruptible unless an exception exists or:

- a. The Adult Participant has advanced, written consent to transport the Minor Athlete one-on-one, obtained at least annually from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.
- b. The Adult Participant is accompanied by another Adult Participant or at least two minors who are at least 8 years of age.

2. Additional Requirements for Transportation Authorized or Funded by USA Volleyball and its Regions

- a. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian is required for all transportation authorized or funded by USA Volleyball and its Regions at least annually.
- b. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.

B. Recommended Components

1. Shared or Carpool Travel Arrangement

The Organization encourages parents/guardians to pick up their Minor Athlete first and drop off their Minor Athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.

2. 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 travel one-on-one with an Adult Participant.

LODGING AND RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTS POLICY

Youth athletes traveling overnight face greater risk of sexual abuse if they are traveling without their parent/guardian. Abusers can take advantage of the situation by trying to have unsupervised time alone with children. This section sets rules for sleeping arrangements and room monitoring to protect athletes during overnight travel.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

All In-Program Contact during lodging must be observable and interruptible unless an exception exists.

a. Lodging arrangements covered under this policy include, but are not limited to, hotel stays, rentals (i.e., Airbnb, VRBO, HomeToGo, etc.), and long-term residential environments, including lodging at training sites and billeting.

2. Hotel Rooms and Other Sleeping Arrangements

a. An Adult Participant cannot share a hotel room or otherwise sleep in the same room with a Minor Athlete(s), unless an exception exists and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided USA Volleyball and its Regions or Adult Participant with advance, written consent for each specific lodging arrangement.

b. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian must be obtained for all In-Program lodging at least annually.

c. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.

d. Adult Participants without an exception and written parent/guardian consent as stated above are not permitted to stay overnight with Minor Athlete(s) in a communal lodging space such as an Airbnb, VRBO, HomeToGo, etc.

3. Monitoring or Room Checks During In-Program Travel

If USA Volleyball and its Regions or a team 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.

4. Additional Requirements for Lodging Authorized or Funded by the Organization

Adult Participants that travel overnight with Minor Athlete(s) are assumed to have Authority over Minor Athlete(s) and thus must comply with the Education and Training policy outlined in Part II, unless the Adult Participant meets the Close-in-Age exception.

B. Recommended Components

Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for lodging arrangements under this 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 educational 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;
- b. An employee or board member of USA Volleyball or its LAOs;
- c. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USA Volleyball or its LAOs;
- d. Authorized, approved, or appointed by USA Volleyball or its LAOs to have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes.⁷

Amateur Athlete: An athlete who meets the eligibility standards established by the National Governing Body 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 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 4 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 relationship with a Minor Athlete outside of the sport program 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.

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. USA Volleyball considers its LAOs to include Regions and clubs affiliated with Regions.

⁷ 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.

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 USA Volleyball and its LAOs.⁸

Partial or Full Jurisdiction: Includes any sanctioned event (including all travel and lodging in connection with the event) by USA Volleyball and its LAOs, or any facility that USA Volleyball and/or its LAOs owns, leases, or rents for practice, training, or competition.

National Governing Body (NGB): A U.S. Olympic National Governing Body or Pan American 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 a parasport athlete who requires 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.

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

Residential Environment: A place in which participants live or stay temporarily. Residential environments include, but are not limited to, onsite housing at training facilities, billeting, hotel stays, or rentals (i.e., Airbnb, VRBO, HomeToGo, etc.).

Billeting: A residential environment facilitated by an Adult Participant, USA Volleyball and its LAOs, or sanctioned event staff in which a Minor Athlete is temporarily housed in a private home with an adult or family who is not related to or known by the Minor Athlete. This lodging arrangement is in conjunction with an activity related to sport.

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.

⁸ This term shall also include any minor who participates in, or participated within the previous 12 months in, a nonathlete role partially or fully under the jurisdiction of an NGB, USOPC, or LAO. Examples include, but are not limited to: officials, coaches, or volunteers.