



VOLT VBC

Parent Information Meeting

● CLUB MISSION

- VOLT Volleyball Club is dedicated to developing athletes of character, coaching life-long skills, and instilling a passion for the game in a positive environment right here in the WNY Region! Our vision at Volt VBC is that players will be given the opportunity to learn the game of volleyball at a high level, while simultaneously learning the important life lessons of teamwork, commitment, time management, sportsmanship, & dependability. Our players will come to know the importance of giving their best effort to the things that are important to them, & carry forward the values we share for the betterment of the rest of their lives.

● PLAYER CODE OF ETHICS

- A player is not merely an individual; a player also represents both the team and the club. The following are the minimum expectations of VOLT VBC athletes upon accepting a place on the club roster:
 - Participate as a member of a unit, showing a **“for the team mentality”**.
 - Be concerned primarily with their own playing, leaving control of other people at an event to the appropriate officials and coaches.
 - Show **respect** for teammates, spectators, coaches, and officials.
 - Realize that successful sportsmanship at a game depends, to a large measure, on a player's actions. Thus, a player is **courteous on the court as well as on the bench**.
 - Make every honest effort to win a contest but avoid deliberate actions which could cause harm to other players.
 - Volleyball players are athletes! Use of alcohol, tobacco (including vaping), steroids, or illegal drugs is not conducive to becoming an athlete. Use of such substances is considered a violation of the code of ethics. *Should such a violation occur, players will be subject to discipline, the level of which will be based on the severity of the offense & up to coaches and club directors discretion.*

● PLAYER EXPECTATIONS FOR PRACTICE

- Arrive at practice **ON TIME** (preferable 10-15 minutes early).
- Remain at practice for the entire practice time.
 - coaches dedicate a lot of time to practice planning and include specific drills and information that is valuable to the specific ability level of the team. This information is typically built upon each week during practice. With only one practice/week, a player's attendance is crucial for both individual and team progress & improvement.
- Dress appropriately (athletic shorts, shirt, clean sneakers, knee pads, H2O, ankle braces).
- Positively encourage teammates during drills throughout practice.
- Treat coaches and teammates with courtesy and respect at all times.
- Be respectful of practice site & tournament locations. Perry & Cal-Mum districts both donate gym & equipment use to our club which allows a drastic decrease in overall club fees.
- **Talk to their coaches** if there are problems or concerns such as playing time, teammate relationships, coaching style or any other issues.
- **Contact your coach if you are not able to make practice for any reason.**
 - If situations arise that interfere with a player's ability to attend practices or tournaments, the entire team will feel the effects of an absent teammate. Unforeseen school-activity conflicts, family issues, and other personal issues will occasionally occur that affect a player's attendance. If a situation exists that will affect your ability to consistently attend team activities, please contact your coach to try to work out a resolution that is acceptable to both sides. If necessary, the club directors will become involved to facilitate a remedy.

● COACHING & PLAYING TIME PHILOSOPHY

- It is our philosophy that *practices are the time to improve skills and work on new concepts*. The fundamentals, which are emphasized initially through positional training and small group work, are used to develop proficient offensive and defensive tactics. A continual source of frustration for players and parents alike is the issue of playing time. **The reality is that equal playing time can not be guaranteed. Our philosophy on playing time is listed below:**
 - During tournament “pool play”, the coach has the right to determine the line-up that he or she determines is best suited to meet the goal of the particular level of participation. With that being

said, every player will receive playing time during this period. An “equal play philosophy” does not apply in many situations and therefore *equal time can not be guaranteed*. It is each player’s responsibility to perform at a level that is consistent in keeping with the goals of the team. If the player does not, for whatever reason, fulfill their obligations on the court, it is the coach’s right to substitute them out so that the team may achieve its goals. Players are expected to perform certain roles on the bench as well, which greatly contributes to the success of the team.

- Coaches will do his/her best to give each player playing time. **THIS DOES NOT TRANSLATE TO EQUAL PLAYING TIME.** The coach will base playing time on what the line-up/substitution scenario best offers the team a chance to be successful. The players (and parents) **must understand that the playing time among the team members may be different & positional needs/player versatility/experience all play a LARGE IMPACT on lineup decisions and overall court time.** One player’s role may be to play three rotations, while another player’s role may be to play six rotations.
- All players earn their playing time in practice. It is the player’s task to work hard enough and learn enough to get on the court during tournament games. Some players will get specialized assignments while others must work to be the best alternate starter that she can be. *Regardless of the role that evolves over the season, all players and parents are expected to remain positive and committed to the goal of having the TEAM do as well as possible by the end of the season.*
- It is important for players and parents to understand that the goal of the team is to compete successfully at tournaments and to play as **competitively as possible.** This mentality encourages progress and growth of **ALL TEAM MEMBERS**, even if court time is not spread equally among all players. If it is the player’s belief that she is not being treated fairly or playing an appropriate amount, *she should discuss it with the coaching staff first and foremost.* The coaching staff sees your daughter at each practice and may see something that parents do not. Parents and players should remember that playing time is earned. The players, by attending & working hard in practice to improve skills and consistency, will play a role in how much playing time they will get.
- Once a team enters **play-offs**, lineups are at the sole discretion of the respective coaches and playing time is **NOT guaranteed.** During this period of competition, the coach will designate the lineup she feels is most competitive for that particular set. This is a “game-time” decision and may change from set to set or tournament to tournament based on individual performance of each player during earlier pool-play competition.
- **In reaching our goal to educate players in life skills outside of volleyball, we feel it is important for players to create and maintain a good dialogue with their coaches regardless of age.** The parent’s role is one of support to the players, coaches, and club. Parents should not engage in “coaching” from the sidelines, criticizing players, coaches, game officials, or try to influence the makeup or operation of the team at any time.

● PRACTICE/ALTERNATE PLAYERS

- If you or your child has accepted a practice player position, you will participate in **practices only.** At any time, your respective coach may ask you/your child to participate in a tournament if their is the *positional need and/or growth in your skills.*
- This is our first year offering practice/alternate player opportunities. We ask that all club members be understanding as we navigate this new place within our club. This effort is to provide additional athletes an opportunity for volleyball exposure & learning during the off season that otherwise would not be available.
- Practice/alternate players are responsible for a \$200 season fee. If your child is a practice player and competes in MORE than two tournaments, you will be responsible for an additional \$200 fee due on MARCH 7TH (\$400 total).

● FINANCIALS

- 2024-2025 season dues are \$600. By accepting a place on a VOLT roster, you have committed to the payment of this fee. This fee covers jerseys, equipment, coaching, & tournament entry fees. Please be respectful of this financial commitment as our club makes every effort to keep our dues affordable (compared to other area clubs costing in excess of \$3,000/season).
- Teams will be registered for 6 tournaments throughout the '24-25 season
- Season dues DO NOT cover travel/hotel/meal costs if necessary/applicable
- **Players are responsible for entire season dues, even if they are unable to participate in all practices/tournaments.**
- Initial \$200 fee is due **TODAY NOVEMBER 17th, 2024**
- The remaining \$400 fee will be collected in two separate payments due **January 24th** and **March 7th.**
- **Payments can be made on our website @ www.volt-vbc.com/payments**
- Separate links will be provided at appropriate time of payment
- If your family experiences unexpected financial hardship at some point during the season, please reach out to the club directors to set up a manageable payment plan for your family
- *If your account has an outstanding balance, or a payment plan has not been set up & agreed upon, your child will not be allowed to participate in tournament play and an alternate player will be awarded the opportunity to participate.*

● WEVA MEMBERSHIP UPGRADE

- **This membership must be upgraded IF a “junior tryout membership” was initially purchased***
- <https://www.wevavolleyball.org/page/show/7154194-register>
 - Click on the VOLT VOLLEYBALL blue tab
 - You will then be directed to your family sports engine account where you will select the appropriate child profile & membership upgrade from the following options:
 - **Junior Player:** This is a Full season junior player membership for all players falling into the 17U, 16U, 15U, & 14U age divisions. It includes both indoor and outdoor participation and makes players eligible for all regional and national level events.

- **Junior Player w/ SafeSport:** Full season junior player membership for those who are 18 or will turn 18 by the last day of the season (Aug 31, 2025). This includes both indoor and outdoor participation and eligible for all national level events. *SafeSport training must be completed prior to being eligible to participate (THIS OPTION FOR SOME BUT NOT ALL OF OUR 18U PLAYERS)*
 - Please contact the club directly via email if you have questions regarding this.
 - Updated membership & training must be completed prior to your teams first practice or you will be unable to participate until doing so
- **TRAVEL**
 - Travel to and from tournaments and practice is the responsibility of players and their parents. Car-pooling to practices and tournaments is encouraged. Hotel expenses – for single-day and weekend events, if players/parents choose to travel the day before tournaments, or for multi-day events – **are not included in the cost of club participation.**
- **PLAYERS & SCHOOL SPORTS**
 - Athletes who participate in school sports or other activities and who also wish to play club volleyball have an added challenge of balancing these activities. It requires a special person to be organized and committed to these activities, but it can be done. Coaches expect that the athlete is honest and open about any school sport/activity conflicts so the coaches can plan accordingly. A coach may be able to handle missing one or two athletes during a winter or spring sport season for some tournaments and practices but will need to be *informed of the conflicts by their first practice so she can make necessary adjustments.*
- **WEATHER/UNSAFE TRAVEL CONDITIONS**
 - In the event of weather conditions that require cancellation of practice or a tournament, coaches will message (Team Reach App) players/parents as soon as they receive word of cancellation. In addition, emails will be sent out to everyone affected, so please be sure that we have a parent/legal guardian's (**not your child's**) correct email address on file. Notices will also be posted on our website as quickly as possible when cancellations occur. We will do our best to make cancellation decisions **no later than 1hr prior to practice start time** if a weather cancellation is necessary. Please remember that WNY winter weather can be sporadic and we have individuals traveling from various regions to attend practices which plays a large role in our decision making.
- **GENERAL CLUB BEHAVIOR**
 - At all club activities, players, parents/guardians, and coaches are expected to act appropriately, keeping in mind that they are representing the club and our area. This includes practices, tournaments, and hotel or overnight accommodations.
 - Players, coaches, and parents/guardians must display good sportsmanship toward competitors, officials, and event staff at all events and venues.
 - No foul or abusive language will be tolerated from players, coaches, or parents/guardians at any time.
 - Parents must refrain from criticizing any player, including their own daughter, during tournaments.
 - Players and parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss any problems relating to their team with the coach. However, no coach will be allowed to speak with a parent regarding their child's playing time, game strategies or any other team management issue during tournament play. The player & parent may schedule an appropriate meeting time before or after practice if this kind of discussion is necessary.
 - **If you have a concern regarding your daughter, we expect you to use the following procedure:**
 - The athlete should speak with the coach first.
 - The parent/guardian should speak with the coach, and then,
 - If you feel the problem is not remedied, the parent and athlete should meet with the coach and the Club Director(s). Players or parents/guardians not complying with this procedure risk expulsion from the club.
 - Many facilities have rules regarding what may and may not be brought into the facility or play location. Please adhere to all facility rules regarding food, drinks, chairs, and pets, etc. Teams may be penalized for failure to follow facility rules.