2022-2023 Sandhills Volleyball Club Player-Parent Contract

**Parents and Players must sign this agreement that they have read the rules below and agree to them. The agreement is primarily related to travel team issues, but we do require all sign. Agreement must be signed and “signature page” mailed or handed in to your head coach.**

Our goal is a safe, fun, and positive season for all. Our experience has told us that the best way for us to accomplish this is to put down in writing our exact expectations up front. The goal is to put down on paper the answers to potential situations that will come up, and make sure at the same time we answer your questions. It is imperative you read this contract and agree to all terms prior to joining this season.

**THIS CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT** (the “Contract”) is made and entered into, by and between **Sandhills Volleyball Club (SVBC)** and below Named Parent and Player, **as participant in a SANDHILLS VOLLEYBALL CLUB Program.**

**TEAMS- PLAYERS**

SVBC is for the serious volleyball athlete! Our training & tournament schedule is very demanding, but it will make you better, increase game knowledge, and improve your skill level. SVBC players are athletes who want to reach their potential from the beginner athlete, to the elite.

It is the philosophy of the SVBC program to develop respect, discipline, commitment, and a positive self-image in each of the athletes. It is important that each player understand the concept of being a part of a “team." Every athlete will be expected to conduct herself appropriately at all times. You will be representing your family as well as the SVBC program. Show respect at all times to coaches, teammates, officials at tournaments and parents. Be competitive, but not disrespectful toward other JO teams or clubs. Disrespect to anyone will not be tolerated! One warning will be issued if an issue arises, and a second offense will result in the dismissal from the team.

If it is in the best interest of the program, a player may be moved from one team to another, or to another age division, based on one or more of the following; (1) position, (2) skill level (3) attitude (4) needed for tournament play (5) Loss of player from another team. The coaching committee will have the authority to move a player from one team to another based on above needs. Players may request to be moved to a lower team if she feels that she is not getting sufficient playing time at tournaments. The move down to a lower team will depend on whether the team has an opening. Teams also may play down an age based on region rankings. Players must be willing to play any position needed by team.

**TRYOUT PROCESS**

Players are placed on teams of similar skill level. Players are not allowed to play up in age divisions, except when invited by coaches committee. SVBC will not offer Parent/Player discussions of team placement. Teams will be decided during November. Your team coach will contact their players during this week and inform them of their practice schedule. Parents/players will have 24 hrs to accept or decline team placement. Acceptance to a team is automatic. If you decline acceptance to a team you will need to e-mail the director at sandhillsvolleyballclub@gmail.com within 48 hrs of team announcements.

 **PRACTICE – TOURNAMENTS**

**Understand that practice and training is where you receive the most instruction and experience. Tournament play is only a supplement to participating in Club**.

PLAYING TIME: Regional teams will offer **fair** (not equal) playing time to each team player. Fair could be defined as playing an average of 2 or 3 rotations (front or back row) per match. Fair is not based on time, playing a specific requested position, or being able to serve.

If you must miss a practice, you must inform your coach a minimum 24 hours in advance so that the coach may plan practice appropriately. There is no exception to this rule! **Three** weeks advance notice is required if you can’t attend a tournament. Players will be evaluated for participation if missing more than **6** unexcused practices during the season. Failure to inform us can result in SVBC withdrawing your membership without refund.

Practice schedules will be available 7 days in advance, tournament schedules 30 days in advance. We request that SVBC be a priority, after schoolwork and school sports. If you decide that your schedule has too many conflicts, then you should seriously consider whether you have the time to dedicate to our program. We are looking for the player who is committed to reaching her potential and who is willing to work hard to achieve this.

Arrive at practice at least 10 minutes early in order to be warmed up prior to the beginning of practice.

Bring **ALL** uniform items to **ALL** tournaments. Players missing uniform items will not be allowed to play, even if someone brings them to the facility. This will teach responsibility.

When your team has referee duties, the ENTIRE team must stay and work until the match is completed, this includes the last officiating duty.

During any overnight travel, curfew will be 11pm on all nights prior to a match! It is our preference that all players stay with their parents or another team parent. It is the parent’s responsibility to arrange housing for their daughter, if they can’t attend. If we find out about any problems incurred at hotels by players, they will be asked to leave immediately and be removed from the team for remainder of the season!

SVBC assigns a minimum of one coach per team to hold practices and attend tournaments. Each coach is asked to make as many of these as possible. Understand that circumstances and schedules will require that some teams hold joint practices when a coach is unable to attend. We also have substitute coaches that fill in for practices and tournaments, when the head coach is unable to attend. It may be possible that a coach can’t attend a tournament. We are human, and there may be times that a practice is cancelled at the last minute and information can’t get out.

**Parents Requirements:** REQUIREMENT: All club information will be communicated through E- Mail, text, social media, or on web site postings. In order to be kept informed, make sure you check both regularly. We recommend you sign up ALL the email addresses for members who need to get information (Player, Mom and Dad).

Parents are not to “coach” their Athletes during Tournaments. The Athletes will be focused on what Coaches have to say and need to concentrate on such. Parents are not allowed near the team bench.

If an Athlete is removed by Parents for any reason from the Tournament site without previous permission from the Head Coach, SVBC will consider that Athlete to have resigned from the Program.

Detailed region tournament info, location, format, gyms will be posted on the region website: www.palmettoregionvb.org.

Parents are responsible for getting your child to and from a tournament. Team reps can assist in planning car pools for ones that need it.

**Parents are to be supportive of the entire Team at all times, and all SVBC Teams while at Tournaments. Parents are not to engage in any behavior in cheering that would reflect negatively on SVBC. Guidelines for Parents are no different from Athletes in this regard.**

Only the Head Coach or the Team Captain, under the direction of the Head Coach, may question an official or gym supervisor. At no time should you address or yell at any official.

Parents and families will adhere to the Palmetto Region Volleyball NO Tolerance Policy. This policy can be found on Region web site www.palmettovb.com

**Financial Contract**

All fees are based on a lump sum set cost based on the Division chosen. A payment schedule will be posted online. This ensures that all monies are paid in time to cover costs for all tournaments entered and have uniforms ordered and available for the first tournament in January. 40% of all fees must be paid before the first tournament, and all fees must be paid by the fifth tournament unless other arrangements are made with the club director. Anyone who has not paid the appropriate fees by these dates will not be allowed to play in any further tournaments until payment is made.

REFUNDS: Monies are only collected from players committing to playing for SVBC. Remember, we are passing along our expenses only; we don’t have the bank balance to pay expenses without fee income when due. Understand that our expenses must be paid on time and we expect the courtesy of payment from parents on time.

***Fees paid to the club are non-refundable after a player has accepted a position on a team***. Exceptions are due to a season ending injury, illness, or relocation out of the area. In this instance, refunds may be granted with a written request, to the Director, accompanied by a physician’s report, where applicable. Only tournament entry fees are eligible for this refund.

There is no credit or refunds for players who are unable to attend tournaments or practices.

Fees include all costs, except food, travel, and lodging for tournaments. If a player decides to leave the club prior to the end of the season, you must notify us in writing.

**SANDHILLS VOLLEYBALL CLUB Grievance Procedure**

The following grievance procedure is designed to restore sanity to the sometimes-insane world of youth sports and allow our coaches to work with athletes while respecting the wishes of their parents. Families who are not comfortable with the below procedure should consider joining another J.O. volleyball program. If the issue cannot be resolved through the coach/parent/player format, the last option would be that the parent/player or coach may request, in writing a meeting with SVBC coaches committee. The SVBC coaches committee will consist of all active coaches participating in the current SVBC season and the SVBC director. Grievances will only be accepted in writing. The grievance will be reviewed, a solution will be found and issue will be resolved with a majority vote. This will be the final decision of SVBC.

**GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

**Specifically, the procedures to follow if you as a parent, or your athlete as a member of a SVBC Program, have concerns about SVBC policies or actions are, in this order:**

(1) The athlete should speak to or meet with the coach about the matter. If the matter remains unresolved, or if the athlete has reasonable concern that speaking to the coach will not resolve the matter.

(2) The parent should first email the coach, and copy the coaching committee. If it can’t be resolved, a meeting will be called with the coach, parent, director, and members of the coaching committee. If a parent during a tournament approaches a coach, we have instructed the coach to refuse to discuss any controversial matter, and to walk away from the parent. **A player and/or parent should NEVER approach a coach or director during a tournament with concerns.** This includes off time during multi day tournaments. We require a minimum of 48 hrs pass before contact.

(3) If the parent prefers to not speak to the coach, they may request to speak to Club Director, but NOT during a tournament. Request should be done so in writing no earlier than the 48 hrs AFTER the tournament is completed. In certain situations, we may ask the athlete to attend the meeting, also. Meetings will not be discussed or scheduled during or at a tournament.

(4) What the club or coaches will not do is discuss "coaching decisions" "Coaching decisions" include, among other things, specific match decisions (who played when, who was subbed out and when, rotation and lineup, etc.) The amount of time any given athlete is on the court is the result of a complex determination, in that coach’s opinion, of the athlete’s ability, the athlete’s potential, the athlete’s attitude, the athlete’s position, the team’s needs at the moment, and the team’s needs in the future. The coach will not be required to defend his/her thought process or conclusions in these determinations, and it is improper for a parent to request it.

In addition, we instruct coaches not to discuss any athlete other than the parent’s own, the actions of any other SVBC coach, or the comparison of one coach to another. If you, as a parent, have legitimate concerns about a coach other than your athlete’s coach, or with an athlete other than your own; you need to address the Club Director. It is inappropriate for an athlete or a parent to approach other SVBC members about a problem the athlete or parents are having with an SVBC coach or team, about objections to coaching decisions, or about disagreement with an administrative decision. Asking uninvolved persons to take sides in an issue is unfair to the third party and to the Club. Competitive team athletics, by its very nature, creates situations where everyone may not be happy all the time. For the psychological health of the teams and the Club as a whole, grievances need to be handled between the parties involved and the decision-makers in the situation, not other parents on the team. Any member who is approached and asked to listen to or express an opinion about matters between two other parties in the Club is strongly encouraged to refer the complaining party to take the matter up with either the coach in question, and/or the Club Director. Repetitive complaining by the athlete(s) or other third parties that interferes with the Club’s efforts to pursue its stated pledge and purpose may be cause, in the sole determination of the Club, to ask a member to resign.

**Medical Policy**

Any player participating on an SVBC team that has a pre-existing medical condition must provide, in writing, a letter of release to play volleyball from their physician. We have a strenuous practice and tournament schedule, and athletes who cannot perform ALL parts of the program will not be allowed to play. Upon release from a physician, any athlete participating who becomes injured, up to and including death, will not hold SVBC responsible for their injuries.

**PARENTS AND PLAYERS ARE TO KEEP THE ABOVE WRITTEN AGREEMENT AND REMIT SIGNATURE FORM WITH DEPOSIT REMITTAL.**

Practice Facility

At SVBC, we rely on outside organizations for our practice facilities. For the 2021/2022 season, we will be holding practices at Thomas Hart Academy in Hartsville, SC. Any damage done to the facility by a player will be the financial responsibility of the parent to resolve with THA as they see fit. Failure to resolve such issues and damages will result in the immediate release of the player from SVBC.

The above form must be read, agreed upon, and signed by both parents and player before placement on a travel team is allowed.

In agreement to the commitments above, I certify that all parties have read all sections of above commitment agreement and agree to abide by the rules and commitments set forth above while participating in the volleyball season set forth by Sandhills Volleyball Club.

Players Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ USAV Age Group: \_\_\_

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**Office Only**

Received Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Team: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_