

**NORTH FLORIDA
VOLLEYBALL
ACADEMY**

Handbook

2007-2008

WWW.NORTHFLORIDAVOLLEYBALLACADEMY.ORG

**THE MISSION AND PURPOSE OF NORTH FLORIDA VOLLEYBALL
ACADEMY is ...**

1. To advance the personal and athletic growth of youth through consistent development as a student in volleyball
2. To foster a sense of community outside and within the Academy
3. To promote leadership and good sportsmanship in all Academy Administrators, Athletes, Coaches and parents
4. To educate parents and athletes about the recruiting process.
5. We will continue our efforts in making NFVA an organization for everyone (male or female) of all ages, as we understand the important positive impact we have in the community.
6. We will continue to pursue a positive climate of growth, through competitive volleyball, while educating our members about the importance of responsibility, being goal oriented and involved in the community.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

All updated information can be found on our web site:

northfloridavolleyballacademy.org

1. While representing NFVA, all athletes are expected to behave in a responsible manner. Determination of what is responsible lies solely with the Club.
2. Any athlete damaging equipment owned by NFVA, or any facility used by the Club during practices, tournaments or other functions, or at lodging facilities, or in transportation vehicles, will be required to reimburse the Club and/or facility for the damages before continuing in the Club. In some circumstances, the athlete may be dismissed from the Club.
3. No athlete will be allowed to participate during the current season if fees from previous year are unpaid to NFVA.
4. Unless permission is given by the Director, no athlete will be allowed to participate during the current season if they were dismissed from the previous season.
5. An athlete with a delinquent account during the current season may be denied the privilege of playing in a tournament and/or asked to sit out at practice until the account is paid or arrangements are made with the Director.
6. The athlete's current season's account must be paid in full before the athlete will be allowed to participate in the last tournament of the season.
7. In case of inclement weather, coaches will call players to notify them of practice cancellations.
8. NFVA has the philosophy that playing time for all athletes is determined by the performance of the athlete, and is left to the discretion of her NFVA coach. This includes playing time at all tournaments. In keeping with our Mission and Purpose, WE DO NOT GUARANTEE EQUAL PLAYING TIME ON ANY TEAM OR AT ANY EVENT.

9. If your athlete makes an Elite team, we expect NFVA practices and tournaments to take priority over all other outside activities, with the exception of educational school activities unless permission is given by the Coach and Director. Other sporting practices or events are not considered educational school activities.
10. An athlete on an AAU or Travel team may not miss any tournaments without prior arrangements with the Head Coach and Director. The athlete should inform the Head Coach and Director at the time the tournament is chosen. All missed practices must be communicated in advance to Coaches.
11. More than three unexcused absences from mandatory practices will result in dismissal from the team. There will have be non-mandatory practices during the holiday season, spring break, and Easter.

Amount of playing time for all players is at coach's discretion and may not be equal for all players.

The **NORTH FLORIDA VOLLEYBALL ACADEMY, INC.** is a private, not-for-profit corporation, registered in Florida. It is affiliated nationally with the United States Volleyball Association (USAV) and the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU). All players, coaches and chaperones must be registered and all tournaments are sanctioned. The competitive season is December through July and yearly membership is November 1 through October 31st.

The Club is governed by a seven member board, which meets regularly and sets club policy. Any parent, player, or coach may submit items in writing for consideration by the board.

Board of Directors:

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GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Knowing when to communicate and how to communicate with your athlete's coach is a concern for almost every parent at some time during the season. Most often the concern is how to inquire about issues surrounding playing time.

We encourage the athlete to talk to the coach when she has a problem about her playing time, or if she is unclear about what the coach expects from her either in practice or in competition. The appropriate attitude is for the athlete to ask the coach what she needs to do to get more opportunities to play in matches. Parents can best help their athlete by helping her set some goals to achieve more opportunities and encouraging their athlete to communicate with their coach. Coaches are not encouraged to speak to parents about an athlete's playing time etc.

In addition, we instruct coaches not to discuss matters with any parents or the actions of any other Club coach. 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 should contact the Director. Please note again that "coaching decisions/playing time" are not, in our opinion, legitimate concerns. You should make an appointment to discuss.

Specifically, the procedures to follow if you as a parent, or your athlete as a member of a NFVA team, have concerns about NFVA 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 has not been resolved by the coach, proceed to item 2.
2. The parent should schedule a meeting with the Coach and the Director. Parents and/or athletes are expected to call the coach on the phone to set a meeting. Meetings are to be at times and locations other than tournaments. If a parent during a tournament approaches a coach, we have instructed the coach to refuse to discuss any controversial matter. The recommended time for a parent and/or athlete to talk to a coach about a problem is a previously arranged meeting time.
3. If the parent and/or the athlete are not satisfied by the action taken by the Coach and the Director, they may request, in writing, that the Board of Directors review the matter. The Issue Resolution Form shall be used for this purpose. The Board may, at its sole discretion, review or refuse to review the matter. The Board will not review coaching decisions, training regimes, or skill development.

General policies regarding grievances with the Club are:

1. NFVA will not tolerate hostile, aggressive confrontations between a parent and any official, Coach, Director, Coordinator, Board Member, athlete, or other parent, whether the Coach, Director, Coordinator, Board Member, athlete, or other parent is a member of NFVA or not. Violation of this policy may result in sanctions to the individual involved, which may include, but are not limited to, prohibition from attendance at team events, suspension or dismissal from NFVA.
2. It is inappropriate for an athlete or a parent to involve other parents or players in a problem the athlete or parent is having with a NFVA coach, objections to coaching decisions, or disagreements with an administrative decision. Asking uninvolved persons to take sides in an issue is unfair to the third party, to the Club, and most of all to the athletes. Competitive team athletics, by its very nature, creates situations where everyone may not be happy all the time. For the psychological health of the Athletes and the Club as a whole, grievances need to be handled between the parties involved and the decision-makers in the situation.
3. Repetitive complaints or other negative behavior that interferes with the Club's efforts to pursue its stated mission and purpose may be cause, in the sole determination of the Board, to dismiss a player, parent or coach.

Inappropriate behavior should be reported immediately to the Coach or Director. All complaints will be investigated. If you have questions about NFVA policies or procedures, please do not hesitate to contact the Director.

INSURANCE AND INJURIES

Your USAV Florida Region membership will provide secondary medical coverage for injury at practice and tournaments. Please report any injuries to the coach immediately so that proper paperwork is filed.