

WEVA CODE OF CONDUCT

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“The WEVA SPIRIT”

All participants within Western Empire Volleyball Association (WEVA), athletes, coaches, parents, referees, staff and spectators are expected to create a memorable atmosphere where everyone gets the most out of the shared experiences. The mission of all events sponsored by WEVA is to provide athletes with tests of their athletic talents while at the same time offering the entire community with opportunities to be enlightened by their experiences both on and off the court.

A mutually supportive atmosphere can only be created and maintained when everyone commits to embodying this spirit. The primary components of this spirit are family, friends, and fun. Families are encouraged to share in the joy of witnessing spirited competition and in sharing off-court special moments. Athletes are provided opportunities to strengthen bonds with their friends and family. The WEVA experience should be a joyful experience that will inspire enthusiasm for family-centered activities. All participants deserve to be provided with opportunities to join together to celebrate individual and collective achievement.

THE CODE

I. General Conduct

- 1) ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE BY PLAYERS IS PROHIBITED
 - a) State laws prohibit the use of alcohol by minors (under 21 years of age) and the possession or use of drugs. These laws will be strictly enforced by parents, team chaperones, coaches and tournament officials. Any player found in violation of these laws may be subject to prosecution by law enforcement officials and will be suspended from WEVA for a period of time.
 - b) Team chaperones and coaches assume responsibility for monitoring player conduct both on and off the court at WEVA sanctioned events to ensure that drinking and drug use laws are upheld.
- 2) USE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS BY COACHES OR CHAPERONES IS PROHIBITED
 - a) The consumption of alcohol by coaches and chaperones is prohibited in the presence of players.
 - b) The use or possession of drugs is a violation of State Law.
 - c) Violators will be suspended from WEVA events for a period of time.
- 3) ENTERTAINING MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX IN ROOMS IS NOT ALLOWED
 - a) When players of WEVA are participating in events that are sanctioned by USA Volleyball where hotel accommodations are required, sleeping rooms are not considered appropriate for entertaining members of the opposite sex.

II. Event Conduct

- 1) CONDUCT DURING OPENING CEREMONIES
 - a) Opening Ceremonies are designed to celebrate the spirit and opportunity to participate in the event. The events that host an opening ceremony are an honor to participate in and proper representation of WEVA is required by all participants.
 - b) All Players, coaches and chaperones will participate in the opening ceremonies.
 - c) Players will dress in standard club uniform unless requested differently by the hosting region. Appropriate attire must be worn.
 - d) All participants are expected to behave in an orderly, dignified manner throughout the entire ceremony.
 - e) Participants will remain in their approved or chosen seats until dismissed by the master of ceremonies. The throwing of objects into the crowd, including beach balls, is not acceptable behavior.

- 2) CONDUCT DURING THE SANCTIONED EVENT
 - a) All participants are expected to behave in an orderly manner throughout each event. The events are for the enjoyment of everyone.
 - b) Taunting, physical confrontation, destruction of facilities or personal property of others is unacceptable behavior.

III. Court Conduct

- 1) PLAYERS WILL ABIDE BY USA VOLLEYBALL RULES REGARDING COURT CONDUCT
 - a) At all times coaches, teammates, opponents, and officials will be treated with utmost respect.
 - b) Players and Coaches serving as second referees, scorekeepers, lines person, or ball shaggers will:
 - i) Appear on time to perform their duties
 - ii) Stand alone while performing their duties
 - iii) Not talk to anyone during the match except the referees
 - iv) Not use electronic device (e.g. CD or tape players, computer games, etc.), or engage in any other distraction during the match.
- 2) Coaches will assume responsibility for making certain that their players understand how to perform their officiating responsibilities with appropriate techniques and behavior.
- 3) Players will show good sportsmanship and respect toward teammates, opponents, coaches, staff and spectators.
- 4) The full responsibility for enforcing court conduct rules resides with the team coach and /or club director. Teams that fail to abide by these rules are subject to disciplinary action (e.g., game forfeiture or exclusion from the tournament or future sanctioned events).

IV. Off Court Conduct

- 1) In addition to abiding by the general code of conduct, all players and chaperones will:
 - a) Abide by the curfews established at the event or by the coach.
 - b) Maintain premises in good order (littering and defacement of property will not be tolerated). Coaches will be responsible to ensure that the area in the facility that is utilized by the team is left in the same state as when the team arrived.
 - c) Maintain quiet in rooms after designated times established by the sponsoring organization.
- 2) Players will always travel to and from their residence and playing sites in pairs (a general rule for safety).
- 3) Players are responsible for communication to the coach as to their whereabouts.
- 4) Participants found in violation of these Conduct Rules are subject to dismissal as outlined by sponsoring organization, dismissed from future participation in USA events, and/or fines for damages.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the coaches and chaperones to review with their team(s) this Code of Conduct. It is also their responsibility to enforce the consequences in a consistent manner.

V. Parent and Spectator Conduct

- 1) Each club assumes full responsibility for orienting all participating parents and/or spectators to appropriate parent conduct during all sanctioned events. At all times parents and/or spectators are expected to demonstrate respect for athletes, coaches, referees, other parents, other spectators, and WEVA staff. Coaches, not parents and/or spectators will:
 - a) Represent the team in any on-court disputes
 - b) Assume full responsibility for instructing athletes prior to, during, and following competition.
 - c) Enforce the rules of the game and on-court player conduct.

- 2) Parents and/or spectators are expected to report to the proper authorities any violations of laws, policies, club or team rules that they observe. They are not to assume responsibility for enforcing public laws, event rules, and club or team rules. Law enforcement officials will assume responsibility for enforcing public laws. The Event Director and their representatives, referees, and staff will assume responsibility for enforcing the Code of Conduct. Team chaperones and coaches not other parents or spectators, will assume responsibility for taking disciplinary action against violators of club or team rules.
- 3) Parents and/or spectators who interfere with the conduct of competition or who violate any provisions of the code of conduct may be asked to leave the playing site, excluded from entering playing sites for the duration of the event, or prohibited from attending future events.
- 4) Verbal assaults on athletes, coaches, referees or other event staff by parents and/or spectators will be reported to the Event Director and disciplinary action may be taken against the club as well as the violator. The club leadership assumes full responsibility for the conduct of all athletes, coaches, chaperones, parents and spectators representing the club.
- 5) Physical assaults on athletes, coaches, referees or other event staff will not be tolerated and will be reported to law enforcement officers and charges will be filed.
- 6) Parents and/or spectators found to be verbally or physically abusing their own children at any sanctioned events will be subject to disciplinary action.

VI. Coaches Conduct

- 1) At courtside, coaches are encouraged to remain seated during play. However, where heavy emphasis is placed upon player development, coaches are allowed to stand and walk the sideline while offering encouragement and instruction to athletes, as long as the court configuration allows it without disrupting play. Throughout the event the coaches must behave in ways that:
 - a) Display the utmost respect for their own and their opponents athletes and coaches
 - b) Display the utmost respect for the referees, lines persons and scorekeepers
 - c) Do not distract their opponents' athletes during play
- 2) A coach is allowed to ask questions of the referee in a calm and civil manner, but is not allowed to challenge a judgment call. USA Volleyball rules govern the awarding of yellow and red cards for coaching misconduct.
- 3) Coaches will abide by USA Volleyball rules governing the filing of protests. Protests will be filed in a civil and professional manner. A coach may appeal to the competition director in the event that he or she feels that due process is not being followed at courtside. These appeals must be filed in a civil and orderly fashion.
- 4) Coaches will be disciplined if they verbally abuse:
 - a) Any player, including their own
 - b) A member of their own coaching staff
 - c) An opposing coach
 - d) A referee
 - e) A parent or spectator
- 5) If the verbal abuse occurs on-court, the coach is warned by a yellow card on the first violation, a red card on the second violation, and will be ejected from the gym on the third violation.
- 6) If the verbal abuse occurs off-court, the coach will be warned and if the behavior persists the coach will be expelled from the event and the incident will be referred to the WEVA board for disciplinary action.
- 7) A coach who employs vulgar language will be ejected from the gym and the case referred to the WEVA Board for review of the incident and appropriate disciplinary action.

- 8) In vulgar language and verbal abuse cases, the Event Director or WEVA board may take any of the following actions:
 - a) Place a coach on probation for the remainder of the event
 - b) Disqualify the coach from further participation in the event
 - c) Disqualified from coaching in the region the following year
- 9) A coach that physically abuses athletes, coaches, referees, event staff, parents or spectators will be ejected from the gym and the case will be reviewed by the WEVA Board. In physical abuse cases, the Event Director or the WEVA Board may take any or all of the following actions:
 - a) File charges with the local law enforcement officers
 - b) Disqualify the coach from further participation in the event
 - c) Disqualified from coaching in the region the following year
- 10) Coaches are required to assume leadership in enforcing the "Spirit of WEVA". If they fail to be good role models for their athletes, parents, and fans or fail to provide responsible leadership in the enforcement of the player or parent Code of Conduct, they, their teams, and/or their clubs may be subject to action by the Event Director or the WEVA Board. In cases of failure of leadership, the Event Director or the WEVA Board may:
 - a) Require the athletes, coaches, and/or parents to attend a special orientation meeting where they are provided with a review of the "Spirit of WEVA"
 - b) Disqualify the coach, team, or club from receiving any Event individual, team, or club awards for which they may have otherwise been eligible.
 - c) Place the coach, team, club, parents, and/or fans on probation for the remainder of the event, and/or for the following year.
 - d) Disqualify the coach, team, club, parents, and/or fans from further participation in the event, and/or for participation in the event the following year.
 - e) Disqualify the coach, team, club, parents, and/or fans from participating in the region the following year.

VII. Club Conduct

- 1) The "Spirit of WEVA" should be adhered to in regards to the choice players and families make for club participation.
- 2) Club Director will provide to WEVA newsletter editor a brief description of their club along with tryout dates and club contacts for questions. This information will be published in the August newsletter that will be distributed to all WEVA junior registrants.
- 3) Club Director or representatives of the club will not actively recruit players from other clubs.
- 4) Club Director, club representatives or coaches that switch clubs or start a club of their own will not initiate contact with previously coached players or families.
- 5) Club Director, club representatives or coaches can send flyers or mailings to players and parents that they would have availability to through contacts established on their own (Previous players at the club, camp lists, school visits etc.)
- 6) Club Director, club representatives or coaches will not verbally threaten or make false promises to players or parents in regards to decisions about joining club of their choice.
- 7) A junior player registered with a club is "free" to entertain switching clubs at any point during the WEVA defined year of competition – End of Friendship season through Junior Nationals (usually mid July). The process that needs to be followed is the following:
 - a) Document request to current Club Director
 - b) Obtain signed release from current Club Director
 - c) Provide the signed release from current Club Director to new Club Director
 - d) Forward signed release and new club information to registrar for processing

NOTE: No junior player will be entitled to switch until all financial obligations from prior club are fulfilled.

- 8) All junior players will be allowed the opportunity to register with a new club the following competitive season if all financial obligations have been met from previous registered club. In order to assure that this is being accomplished all Club Directors will provide the registrar with a report at the end of each season of players not in good standing with their club financially.
- 9) "Common Sense" should dictate the course of action for Club Directors, Club Representatives and Coaches. General rule of thumb - if one cannot talk face to face in detail as to the events that are occurring then it is not the right thing to do. We need to set an example for professional behavior in our representation of WEVA.

VIII. Code Enforcement

- 1) Violations of the Code of Conduct by athletes, coaches, or parents may lead to one or more of the following actions:
 - a) The offender, the offender's team or club will be excluded from the event
 - b) The offender, the offender's team or club will be excluded from future events
 - c) The offender, the offender's team or club will be denied awards that recognize the team or club achievements