



Player/Parent Handbook

In the event of an exceptional, unforeseen circumstance, Fort Worth Fire Volleyball Club reserves the right to amend this handbook to better serve the needs of the program. Any proposed change after August 1, 2013 is subject to review and approval by the Club Director. Suggestions for future manuals should be emailed to Stephanie Kalbfleisch www.fortworthfirevolleyball@yahoo.com

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I. Fort Worth Fire Volleyball Club Mission Statement

Fort Worth Fire Volleyball Club is a competitive club that trains and educates athletes on leadership, teamwork, self worth, positive attitude, respect, community involvement, and work ethic with the goal of achieving higher ranking within the North Texas Region.

Fort Worth Fire Volleyball Club is a registered Club in the Junior Girls/Boys Indoor division of the North Texas Region (NTR) of USA Volleyball. Fort Worth Fire Volleyball Club's mission aligns with the mission statement published by the NTR, which follows:

The NTR region's mission is to promote a wholesome environment so that players, coaches, officials, parents, chaperones, club directors and board members can develop skills, teamwork, positive attitude, competitive spirit, responsibility and sportsmanship regardless of their family background, socioeconomic status, race or gender. It is the responsibility of the North Texas Region to provide everyone in the region with the resources necessary to reach their highest potential.

II. Fort Worth Fire Philosophy

Fort Worth Fire Volleyball's mission is to provide superior opportunities for young female and male volleyball athletes in a positive environment to develop competitive volleyball teams. Fire strives to constant improvement of our staff and athletes. We understand that it takes a commitment from the athlete, their family, and the club to work together to achieve the best possible results for each club member. Coaches work to develop relationships outside the court to have a better understanding of each player and their family. Teams, players, families, and coaches participate in activities to build relationships like social gatherings, team building activities, or community service projects. Studies show that successful programs are developed not just on the court, but outside the court as well. It is more than just volleyball. We are interested in the entire player inside and out. We implement programs dedicated to growing the whole athlete through leadership training, cross training, nutritional guidance, and community service projects. At Fire Volleyball we will help athletes to build their self-image, and self-worth, NOT tear them down, because we care what is going to happen beyond their volleyball career. The development of a young girls and boys esteem and identity between the ages of 11-18 is most important and we want to help build a strong foundation to help promote a healthy self-image that will remain with them through adulthood.

Fort Worth Fire Volleyball Club promotes both individual and team athletic developments. The philosophies of the teams differ somewhat as explained below. All teams share the philosophy that participation in competitive athletics benefits the athletes beyond improvement of their volleyball skills, and participation in Fire Volleyball Club includes the following benefits:

- Instills a strong work ethic in the athletes.
- Enhances social development of the athletes.
- Contributes to physical health and overall well-being of the athletes.
- Promotes values of personal responsibility, time-management, self-discipline, self-motivation, and teamwork.

III. Parent Information Meetings

Fire Volleyball Club will offer mandatory parent information meetings. A parent or representative from each family must attend. Locations and times of Pre-tryout Clinics and Parent Information Meetings are posted online. Please continue to watch email, Face book, and our website for changes.

IV. Tryouts, Offers & Acceptance

Fire Volleyball tryouts are held in July and align with the North Texas Region (NTR) and UIL regulations. In order to tryout, athletes must be registered members of the North Texas Region Volleyball of USA volleyball. The NTR website includes a membership link. **Each player's membership must be renewed yearly with the appropriate fee paid (at registration with NTR, designate club as "undecided")**. Additionally, players must submit Fire VB tryout forms and pay the tryout fee required by Fire Volleyball. It is preferred that parents pre-register online to complete the necessary documents prior to the tryout. You may walk up, but this may take time into the player's tryout and a \$5 fee will be accessed. Players must bring a copy of birth certificate and the waiver liability form from NTR which is provided on the website, along with a player information sheet completely filled out.

The North Texas Region defines the tryout dates/evaluations for specific age divisions; this way, a window is defined in which players can have an opportunity to tryout for multiple clubs.

The Evaluation Window for the upcoming USAV season shall start on the first day after the last day of competition for all age groups at the USAV GJNC. This window lasts until the Acceptance Date. During the Evaluation Window, no binding offers may be made and no payment or other consideration for the upcoming USAV club season may be accepted. Clubs may accept payments during this period for Clinics, Leagues, Camps, Lessons, Beach, and Performance Training. All fees for any activities must meet the criteria of being reasonable fees for reasonable items related or unrelated to the upcoming USAV season.

ACCEPTANCE DATE

Club Directors may make binding offer and may accept any forms of payment on the Acceptance Date. For 15s, 16s, 17s, & 18s USAV Age Groups, the Acceptance Date shall be no sooner than the third Saturday of July. For all other age groups, the ACCEPTANCE DATE shall be no sooner than the fourth Saturday of July. The NTR shall supply an Online Commitment System that may be used to ensure the offer and acceptance by both parties. Offers made via this system may only be made using the login of the Club Director of record in the USAV registration system. These offers must then be accepted by the athlete's guardian. Once an offer is accepted, the athlete will need to meet the prerequisites outlined in the offer. After the prerequisites are met the offer is then ACKNOWLEDGED in the Online Commitment System by the Club Director that the Offer and Acceptance process is complete. The athlete will then need to choose their club in the USAV registration system when it opens on September 1st.

It is impermissible for any other CLUB REPRESENTATIVE to approach an athlete about a position in any other club once the Athlete/Family accept an offer (before and after it is ACKNOWLEDGED). It is also a violation for that athlete's family to pursue an offer from a different club. After the athlete/family have accepted an offer, the Club Director has 48 hours to ACKNOWLEDGE the athletes offer in the Online Commitment System.

Notes:

Confirmed violations of the policies as outlined here would result in sanctions that would range from a probationary warning to the entire club not being allowed to participate in the region. Included in the handbook

will be a clarification of sanctions upon passing of this policy. It is the intent of this policy to define and curtail some unethical recruiting practices. Should these policies be deliberately or maliciously abused, the offender may be subject to the most severe of sanctions.

Like most clubs, Fire Volleyball Club hosts evaluation clinics prior to tryouts. For the 2018-19 season, Evaluation Clinics are scheduled as listed on the website and are subject to change. **A verbal offer may be given to a player at any evaluation clinic.**

Please watch email, Face book, and the website for additional information or changes.

Coaches lead tryouts for the age divisions, and together they determine which athletes will be offered opportunities to play on the Purple, White, and Black, and Grey teams. Ideally, maximum of 11 players are signed for each team, and no additional members are added after the first 11 are named.

To finalize membership on a particular club team (e.g. Fort Worth Fire Volleyball Club), athletes, their parents/guardians, and the club director must all sign the official North Texas Region Offer and Acceptance Agreement form. Signed contracts are binding upon both parties, including financial obligations. **As soon as possible after contract arrangements are in order, the parent/guardian must then log back on to the member page of the NTR website and change the name of the player's club from undecided to "Fort Worth Fire."**

Only girls registered with FW Fire Volleyball Club may play in FW Fire Volleyball Club tournaments/NTR tournaments. Due to unforeseen circumstances, and only on rare occasions, girls listed on one Fire Volleyball Club team may be asked to participate in a tournament with another Fire Volleyball Club team in order to complete their roster. If this occurs, permission from the director as well as from coaches of both teams must be granted before the athlete can play for the "other" team. **Once an athlete plays for a Fire Volleyball Club team in a given tournament, she may NOT play for her own team or another team in that same tournament. She may however, move back to her team for the next tournament.**

Finally, on even more rare occasions, unforeseen circumstances may necessitate the move of a player from one team to another. Generally, all teams have enough players to fill in a "hole" left by any one or two players who may be injured or for whatever reason may leave the program before the end of the season. However, in the unexpected event that a mid-season opening occurs in such a position on a Purple team which cannot be filled by a teammate, consideration may be given to promoting an athlete from the another team. The possible transfer of an athlete will be discussed between coaches and club director and then with the player and her parents who must be agreeable to the move for it to take place.

In the event of a similar situation occurring on an White team, a few possible solutions will be explored including moving a player up from the previous age group, holding a special tryout, or subbing in a player from the Purple team who is willing and who does not have a conflicting tournament for her own team.

V. Age Groups & Waiver Players

- Fort Worth Fire Volleyball Club **does not waive players** for their ages. Boys are allowed to play on girls' teams per the NTR regulations are met. Please see NTR website for rules regarding boys playing on girls teams.

USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR PLAYER AGE DEFINITION(S)

For 2018-2019 Season Please See the NTR website for Age Definitions for the 2018 season.

VI. Fees

The FW Fire Volleyball Club offers the current pricing. Parents of athletes who may be eligible for financial assistance are encouraged to contact the club director personally to discuss possible financial options. Parents are able to have various fundraising events to help offset the cost of club fees. **Should a player be removed or quits a team, the financial obligation still must be fulfilled by the parent.**

For 2018-2019, the fee, per athlete, for participation on the **FW Fire Teams** is as follows:

Purple Teams (Top Teams) 12's-18's

\$3950 to be paid (via auto draft online with credit card/banking information) as follows:

- Deposit \$500: Upon signing Player Acceptance form. (July)
- 1st \$431.25 installment: August 1 or 15
- 2nd \$431.25 installment: Sept. 1 or 15
- 3rd \$431.25 installment: Oct. 1 or 15
- 4th \$431.25 installment: Nov. 1 or 15
- 5th \$431.25 installment: Dec. 1 or 15
- 6th \$431.25 installment Jan. 1 or 15
- 7th \$431.25 installment Feb. 1 or 15
- 8th \$431.25 installment Mar.1

White Teams (Second Teams): 12's-18's

\$3150 to be paid (via auto draft online with credit card/banking information)

- Deposit \$500 Due upon signing Player Acceptance form. (July).
- 1st \$331.25 installment: August 1 or 15
- 2nd \$331.25 installment: Sept. 1 or 15
- 3rd \$331.25 installment: Oct. 1 or 15
- 4th \$331.25 installment: Nov. 1 or 15
- 5th \$331.25 installment: Dec. 1 or 15
- 6th \$331.25 installment Jan. 1 or 15
- 7th \$331.25 installment Feb. 1 or 15
- 8th \$331.25 installment Mar. 1

Black Teams(Third Teams):

\$2700 to be paid (via auto draft online with credit card/banking information)

- Deposit \$500 Due upon signing Player Acceptance form. (July).
- 1st \$275.25 installment: August 1 or 15
- 2nd \$275.25 installment: Sept. 1 or 15
- 3rd \$275.25 installment: Oct. 1 or 15
- 4th \$275.25 installment: Nov. 1 or 15
- 5th \$275.25 installment: Dec. 1 or 15
- 6th \$275.25 installment Jan. 1 or 15
- 7th \$275.25 installment Feb. 1 or 15
- 8th \$275.25 installment Mar. 1

11's Purple(top team)

\$2500 to be paid (via auto draft online with credit card/banking information)

- Deposit \$500 Due upon signing Player Acceptance form. (July).
- 1st \$250.00 installment: August 1 or 15
- 2nd \$250.00 installment: Sept. 1 or 15
- 3rd \$250.00 installment: Oct. 1 or 15
- 4th \$250.00 installment: Nov. 1 or 15
- 5th \$250.00 installment: Dec. 1 or 15
- 6th \$250.00 installment Jan. 1 or 15
- 7th \$250.00 installment Feb. 1 or 15
- 8th \$250.00 installment Mar. 1

Grey Teams(fourth teams)

\$2500 to be paid (via auto draft online with credit card/banking information)

- Deposit \$500 Due upon signing Player Acceptance form. (July).
- 1st \$250.00 installment: August 1 or 15
- 2nd \$250.00 installment: Sept. 1 or 15
- 3rd \$250.00 installment: Oct. 1 or 15
- 4th \$250.00 installment: Nov. 1 or 15
- 5th \$250.00 installment: Dec. 1 or 15
- 6th \$250.00 installment Jan. 1 or 15
- 7th \$250.00 installment Feb. 1 or 15
- 8th \$250.00 installment Mar. 1

Athletes' accounts must be in "good standing," for the athletes' participation in team activities including practice or tournaments. The "auto draft" requirement for payment helps ensure all players' accounts remain in good standing.

Fees for FW Fire Volleyball Club cover the following expenses: volleyball equipment, practice facilities rental fees, tournament entry fees, uniform costs, coaches and staff salaries, communications fees, and various overhead expenses. ALL travel expenses are to be paid by player families. **Hotel is covered for players to Out of State Qualifiers** for ages 13 and up. Fort Worth Fire does not cover family's expenses. Families may choose to stay in hotel for local tournaments, but families will incur the expense.

Players' costs beyond the fees listed above are kept to a minimum. Additional expenses, some of which are optional depending on team choices, are socks / headbands, snacks, meals, and travel costs. Team Parents sometimes coordinate group purchases.

VII. Uniforms

All FW Fire Volleyball Club players will wear the same style and colors. Soon after offers are signed, athletes must be fitted to ensure the proper sizes are ordered specifically for her and to ensure timely arrival of the club's order.

Uniform fittings for the 2018-19 season will be held on the day selected. See website for details.

In 2018-19, the following uniform pieces are included:

- Kneepads
- One pair of black spandex shorts
- Two volleyball jerseys
- One FW Fire Jacket
- One Warm Up Pants
- One Backpack. All players are expected to carry a FW Fire backpack to all practices and tournaments.
- Two practice T-Shirts

Note that the following pieces are excluded from the package (players should supply these items):

- Volleyball shoes are optional and at the expense of the athlete.
- Ankle braces.
- Additional practice shirts or shorts can be purchased.

Certain items are prohibited by NTR regulations and can result in penalties including points given to the opposing team when the prohibited items are worn during tournament play. To reinforce the NTR regulations, the following regulations are in place during practices and tournaments:

- Jewelry is prohibited
- Including newly-pierced ears (band aids coverings are also prohibited)
- Metal hair implements (bobby pins/clips)
- Decorative Wristbands not intended for volleyball.

VIII. Required Attendance

a. Uniform Fitting

All FW Fire Volleyball Club players must attend the uniform fitting session to ensure proper sizes are ordered for each player and to ensure timely arrival of the club's order. Failure to do so may result in improper size of uniform for player.

b. Score Keeping Clinic

Three players from each FW Fire Volleyball Club team must attend an annual score-keeping clinic sanctioned by the NTR. No added fee is required. Participation by selected athletes is required, because FW Fire Volleyball Club must supply certified scorekeepers at all of the tournaments. FW Fire Volleyball Club takes pride in our performance on the court as volleyball players and on the sidelines as scorekeepers, line judges, and second referees. Officiating clinics will be scheduled near the end of November and early part of December to avoid conflicts with scheduled practices. Three parents are required to be certified for the 11's team to sit with the 11's during their scorekeeping duty.

IX. Pre-Practices/Practices

FW Fire Volleyball Club teams have two-hour coach-led practice sessions, twice weekly. Typically, the pre-practices start once a week in November and twice a week beginning in December and run until the last tournament in April/May. The FW Fire Volleyball Club Director and coaches determine the specific times for each team; each team is provided a full court for their sessions. Open gym is provided during November and December holidays.

If a player must miss a practice, a phone call, email or text message directly to the coach is mandatory as soon as the absence is known. Each player must make up their practice at a practice on a different night before they can participate in a tournament if a practice time is available. *Only in the event that the athlete has been unable to reach the coach should she send word through another player. In these instances, the athlete who misses practice is still responsible to follow up with a direct communication to the coach.*

- ALL PRACTICES WILL BE HELD AT GAME ON SPORT COMPLEX

X. Tournaments

a. Tournament Entries

Generally, there are 7-10 tournaments that may include selection from out of region play depending upon which level of team. Families are responsible for travel arrangements and cost incurred during the tournament weekend. The exception is for out of state tournaments when indicated, hotel is paid for the players only. Parents are also primary caregivers throughout the tournament weekend. While some tournaments do not differentiate levels of competition, many tournaments have two levels of competition—Open and Club. In general, Purple teams compete in mostly Open tournaments when available, while the White/Black and Grey teams participate mostly in Club level competition. One day tournaments are available for 11's and Grey teams.

b. How the Tournaments Work – Pool Play/Bracket Play

Tournaments start with “pool play,” and results from pool play determine seeding in the following “bracket play.” Bracket play usually occurs at the same facility, the following day, but in one-day tournaments, pool play and bracket play are on the same day. Occasionally, in two-day tournaments, the venue for bracket play differs from the venue for pool play.

Pools frequently have stated start times of 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 2:30 pm, and pools are announced during the week prior to the tournament **by the sponsoring club**. All athletes are expected to arrive to their assigned court ready to play no later than one hour prior to first scheduled match.

Note that actual start time may be sooner or later than the stated start time; so all teams need to be in position ready for an early start. During bracket play, teams are generally required to “work,” the match following their loss. Even though only five athletes and one coach are required to “work” each match, **all athletes must stay until the work is complete**.

While the scheduled dates for each tournament is known at the beginning of the season, venues and start times are not known until the week of the tournament. A list of venues used for tournaments in 2017-2018 is provided on the website www.fortworthfirevolleyball.com

Also, unfortunately, pool times and locations are subject to change as late in the day before the tournament; so players and parents are cautioned not to schedule other activities around an early-announced pool schedule.

c. FW Fire Volleyball Club Teams’ Support Of Other FW Fire Volleyball Club Teams

When at tournaments athletes are expected to sit with their team in between games and when the teams are not playing they are expected to support each other by attending other Fire team matches at the same facility time permitting.

XI. Parent Volunteer Opportunities

The parent or guardian of each athlete is expected to support their athlete, their athlete’s team, and FW Fire Volleyball Club. Each family is encouraged to participate by volunteering for one of the positions listed below if possible. The following roles and responsibilities are examples:

- a. Team Parent(s)
Organize Food / Water assignments for tournaments which may include collecting money from all players and preparing food for each tournament. **Coordinate purchasing other items such as socks or t-shirts that may be desired by the team.**
- b. Videographer(s)
Film matches, at coach’s request
- c. Statistician (s)
Tally statistics like serves, aces, kills, at the coach’s request. This parent/guardian could also serve as Official Scorekeeper and would be expected to attend scorekeeping clinic at the start of the season.

- d. Photographer(s)
Take candid photos of all players and coach during match and take team photos after winning tournament. Submit tournament victory photos to the FW Fire Volleyball Club Director for use on the website and in media such as news or other local area newspapers.
- e. Special Events/Activities/Chaperone
Coordinate any special events such as Team Dinners, Team events during the season, or any sightseeing activities the team is interested in during travel tournaments.
- f. Communications/media team
Provide support by submitting news to local newspapers in relevant communities about the success of FW Fire Volleyball. This person would work together with the photographer to submit team pictures of tournament outcomes to increase visibility of program.

XII. Staff and Coach Biographies

Short biographies of FW Fire Volleyball Club Staff are provided online. All coaches must pass the USAV-required background screening to help ensure a safe environment for its members during sanctioned activities.

XIII. Tournament Venues Used In 2018-2019

For a complete list please visit the NTR website. www.ntrvolleyball.org

XIV. Player/Parent Code of Conduct

Upon receiving the player agreement, parents/players will have to agree to the following online before try-out registration can be finalized and players be accepted at FW Fire try-outs.

It is the intention of FW Fire Volleyball Club to maintain a positive atmosphere for the athletes to develop their skills in matches and practice. There are certain guidelines that need to be followed for this to occur. Please initial by each statement.

1. ___ Please be encouraging to your daughter and their teammates. Criticism in the stands of coaches, your daughter, and especially of other players does not fit into the sportsmanship ideals of FW Fire Volleyball Club. Not to mention the fact that a parent or relative might be within earshot when you make a disparaging remark.
2. ___ Parents are allowed to attend practices, but please sit quietly and let the coaches do their job to keep the girls focused for their allotted practice time. If you have questions or comments for your players/coaches, please wait for the ride home/next day to address those. Please refrain from discussing the coach or other players with your daughter except in a positive manner.
3. ___ Parents are not to coach from the sidelines while attending practices and tournaments. Please leave the coaching to the coaches.
4. ___ Parents are not to handle any scoring/officiating conflicts. Parents are not to talk to the officials, scoring table or line judges. It is the coach's decision on how to handle any conflicts. Please be aware that mistakes do happen from time to time but we are representing FW Fire Volleyball Club and therefore should demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.
5. ___ Parents should be aware that our doors are always open for your daughters to discuss their abilities and how to improve on them. However, we will not discuss other players with you. Nor should you compare your daughter's playing time/position to that of another member on the team.
6. ___ Any concerns you have should be addressed following the communication chain below. If you **or your daughter** feels the need to talk with your coach please email the coach and set up a time to talk. Before or after practice is typically a good time, but is up to coach availability/preference and only if a prior arrangement has been made. Discussions should not take place in email. It is FW Fire Volleyball Club policy that parents should not discuss concerns before, during, and after tournaments. Please allow a "cooling off" period of 24 hours, then contact your coach and set up a time to discuss your concerns.
7. ___ We believe each parent has a role they can play to help in the success of the team. Areas we can use help are Team Mom/Dad to help with food and team building, Statisticians for coaches without assistants/floater coaches, and photographers. If you are willing to fill one of these roles, please let us know.
8. ___ Team members and staff will refrain from any illegal or inappropriate behavior that would detract from a positive image of the team or be detrimental to its performance objectives.
9. ___ The possession or use of alcohol or tobacco products by any athlete is prohibited.
10. ___ The possession, use or sale/distribution of any controlled or illegal substance or any form of weapon is strictly forbidden.
11. ___ Team members are reminded that when competing in tournaments, traveling on trips and attending other club-related functions, they are representing both themselves and FW Fire. Athlete behavior must positively reflect the high standards of the club.
12. ___ Players are to refrain from inappropriate physical contact at team activities.
13. ___ Players are to refrain from the use of inappropriate language.

Failure to comply with the Honor Code as set forth in this document may result in disciplinary action. Such discipline may include, but may not be limited to:

- i. Dismissal from the trip and immediate return home at the athlete's expense;
- ii. Disqualification from future tournaments, either local or traveling;
- iii. Financial penalties;
- iv. Dismissal from team; and/or
- v. Penalties set forth in the USA Volleyball Participant Code of Conduct, which may include a lifetime ban.

I understand that failure to comply with the above guidelines may result in my suspension from practice, games and matches.

Parent Signature	Date	Player Signature	Date
Communication Chain			
1-Player/Coach 2- Player/Parent/Coach 3-Parent/Player/Coach/Director			

XV. Closing

This handbook provides valuable guidance for the FW Fire Volleyball Club Director, Coaches, Players, and Parents for the 2017-2018 season. As stated on the cover page, "In the event of an exceptional, unforeseen circumstance, FW Fire Volleyball Club reserves the right to amend this handbook to better serve the needs of the program." Suggestions to further expand the information, in level of detail or in topics, are most welcome. Please email your suggestions to Stephanie Kalbfleisch @ fortworthfirevolleyball@yahoo.com

All players and parents of FW Fire Volleyball Club for the 2017-2018 season must electronically sign with online signature at the time of registering for try-outs. This ensures that prior to signing the FW Fire offer and agreement, all players and parents have common understanding of FW Fire Volleyball Club's guidelines and expectations.