



VOLLEYBALL

PARENT

HANDBOOK

Welcome to the Ozark Juniors Volleyball Club

Ozark Juniors Volleyball Club, located out of **Arkansas Athletic Outreach** (Fayetteville, AR) is a unique and diverse youth sports organization that is made up of a network of volleyball organizations within a geographical footprint of 3 hours in every direction. Ozark has over 300 active members.

Volleyball in the DELTA Region of the United States has been long considered near the bottom competitively and participatory in the United States Volleyball Community for many years. A vast majority of successful and elite volleyball clubs are based in large metropolitan areas with a wide range of volleyball resources to utilize. Ozark is attempting the **unique concept** of establishing a network of athletes who come to participate in our club from 3 hour radius in an effort to pool resources to help grow the sport both competitively and participatory.

Ozark is also taking the approach of offering professionally run programs administered by qualified individuals in the sport of volleyball. We **DO NOT** believe in the typical youth sports approach of assigning volunteer moms and dads to train our players. We also feel that administrative duties should be centralized and coordinated by one central staff and not by a group of part time, volunteer parents. We **DO NOT** wish for our highly skilled coaches to have to worry about the hassles of administering our teams but allow them more time to concentrate on training your children.

Our goals are to provide the opportunity for highly skilled athletes to pursue college scholarship opportunities as well as giving the less experienced player the chance to improve their skills for their scholastic teams. Ozark is open to **ALL** players and will gladly teach any player, of **ANY AGE** the wonderful lifetime sport of volleyball. Ozark is an **ELITE** club but not **ELITIST**.

We are a volleyball club that is run by volleyball people.

Thank you,

The Director for the OZARK Volleyball Club

MISSION STATEMENT

Ozark Juniors Volleyball Club has built a tradition of both instructional and highly competitive Volleyball in the Northwest Arkansas area. We are dedicated to developing instructional and competitive female and male players and programs for ages 3 to 18. Through excellence in coaching, well-run and well-administered programs, a philosophy of inclusiveness and dedication to each member, **Ozark Volleyball Academy** is helping develop the future of Volleyball for the Northwest Arkansas community as well as the State of Arkansas. We continue to reach out to the entire community in an effort to grow and promote the great sport of Volleyball in the Mid South area of the United States.

CLUB PHILOSOPHY

Our commitment is to the individual athlete and the team. Winning is a great by-product of a great program with dedicated players, coaches and parents. We will produce a winning program through the hard work of all three groups. In the end, winning must be left up to the athletes. Coaches and parents cannot win the game, so once the whistle blows for serve, it is the players who have to take the court and win the game.

The self-esteem and confidence of every player will be maintained at all times. Players, coaches and parents will NEVER demean any athlete in this program. Winning programs have winners for players, coaches and parents. The literature clearly shows that superior athletic performance and life performance involves high self-esteem individuals. A program with high self-esteem is a winning program, regardless of the score.

All players that show up will be expected to give their best effort and are expected to offer a higher degree of dedication than most of their peers. We will train intensely and **AS A COLLECTIVE** and also have fun in the process. Our concept of Practicing as a **COLLECTIVE** is unique and will give us a competitive advantage in the long run.

If you or your parents feel the need to be viewed as **BETTER** than other players on the team, and thus aren't prepared to be intense, you will probably not fit in well with our coaching and operating philosophy.

OZARK JUNIORS VOLLEYBALL RULES

Local Tournaments

1. All players/parents will make their own arrangements for travel to local NW Ark. Tournaments
2. Players who drive cars may do so with parental permission
3. Players may not leave the tournament site during the day without permission from their coach
4. Players must arrive on time (A full one hour before their scheduled time) & stay until the coach dismisses the team, unless previous permission has been given
5. Players (or parents) must bring their own lunches, snacks or money for food
6. Players are responsible to bring all team uniforms to the tournament (you cannot play unless you are in your team uniform)
7. Players must follow all guidelines put forth by the coach, parents, or assigned "team-parent".

***If any of the above rules are not followed, the player must be reported to the Director of the Ozark Juniors Volleyball Club

Out of Area/Travel Tournaments

1. An Ozark Representative will handle team plans for out of town tournaments
 - a) Players may not drive to out of town tournaments unless their parent is in the vehicle or the parent gave permission to their child.
 - b) Players & their parents are responsible to make their travel plans. We will book a hotel, list it on the website and parents will be required to call and make reservations before the deadline. We do get a group rate, and we encourage teams to stay at the same hotel. This environment promotes team unity and an opportunity to get to know one another on a social level.

All players must make sure Ozark Juniors Volleyball coaches know at least 2 weeks in advance, if you cannot participate in the tournament scheduled for that weekend. Coaches must notify the Club Director.

BEHAVIORIAL EXPECTATIONS

PLAYERS

1. Be on time. Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of practice.
2. No profanity. This is a strict rule that will be followed and enforced.
3. All players are expected to behave appropriately and maturely in every situation, from traveling to playing, to eating at a restaurant.
4. Players are to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times, both on and off the court. We will support our fellow Ozark teams as well as local teams in the area. We must have mutual respect for one another in order to be competitive.
5. Players will respect all coaching decisions
6. Players must abide by specific rules set forth by the parents and coaches for that tournament (i.e. curfews, eating, etc.)
7. No alcohol or tobacco use.
8. Any player violating any of the above rules could be sent home from the tournament at the expense of their parent(s)

PARENTS

1. Parents must agree to enforce the policies set forth for the players
2. Parents are responsible for their children during non-volleyball related activities
3. Parents are responsible for getting the girls' uniforms washed overnight
4. You MUST Support coaching decisions during the tournament.
5. Parents must not approach coaches at tournaments and ask questions about playing time or other volleyball strategies during competitive events. This includes the entire day of the tournament – before and after. Please wait until the day after to set up a time to speak to the club director and determine what needs to be done. Ozark Coaches, as employees of Ozark Juniors, are REQUIRED to walk away from any parents that break this rule. ***If this rule is broken, the player will have a one-tournament suspension with a warning. The second offense will result in being removed from the team.***
6. No excessive coaching or referee abuse from the stands.

Commitment

The success of our program and our teams depends on the commitment of each individual member. We are very excited that you want to be a part Ozark Juniors Volleyball Club, but we need you to understand the level of dedication and commitment that is necessary. It is not all about winning to us, but we do want to be the best we can possibly be and that isn't possible without the total commitment of our team members.

We ask for a commitment from you and your child, but we will also make a commitment to you. Our commitment to you and to your athlete is to be as organized as possible and to provide your athlete with every opportunity to improve their skills in a safe environment. We will strive to make sure that your athlete's experience is always a positive one, where they are encouraged and they are pushed to be all they can be. We do not want to only create better volleyball players...we want to help your child become a productive citizen. Accordingly, our staff will strive to be a good example for your child and to be someone that your child feels comfortable coming to for compassion, encouragement and correction. We will do everything that we possibly can to keep your child excited about being a part of our program! Hopefully, they will look back one day and say, "I really learned something from that program".

We will also commit to be available to you to discuss any concerns or issues and to work together with you and your athlete to reach a mutually acceptable resolution. We will not be able to solve every problem and we may not always agree that there is a problem, but if we are able to sit down and discuss it openly and rationally, we should be able to come to some sort of agreement to resolve any situation. We are here to provide the highest level of service possible. Please try to avoid sitting among other parents and complaining or murmuring amongst yourselves about any issues you may be having. This affects the morale of the gym and of the kids and this does not solve any problem. We are here to help, we want to help and we are willing to work with you however we can, if we are given the chance to do so. ***We ask that you encourage your child to speak to the coach about any concerns or issues she may have. The athlete may ask what she can do to improve and for help in certain areas. This is a life skill and something even younger players should learn to do.*** The coach and the player are the only ones with personal understanding of what is happening in practice. You may inform the coach that your child has some concerns and would you please speak to her after practice. If this does not resolve anything, please see Jenny to determine the next step. We will discuss the issue and plan accordingly, but we will only deal with issues that address the skill of the athlete and not the coaching decisions regarding playing time and strategy. We also will not discuss other players on the team with you-only your child.

In the event that you find it necessary for your child to leave the team, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss your situation before a final decision is made. We understand that there are sometimes unavoidable situations, but we would like the opportunity to work through anything that might come up throughout the year. Our staff is committed to your child, not only in regards to volleyball, but as people. We want to be sure that their experience is as positive and beneficial as possible

We take our commitments seriously and we hope that you will do the same.

Attendance

We understand that some absences are unavoidable. It is when these absences become excessive that we have a problem. Please keep in mind that this is an activity that your athlete is choosing to participate in and attendance not only affects your athlete but also affects all the other individuals on the team. Please notify the coach if your child will miss a practice. Volleyball is a complex sport. If your child does not have a grasp of the rotations or offensive and defensive schemes taught in practices as a result of absences, playing time will be affected. We will not humiliate a player and put them in a situation in which they are lost and confused. Likewise, if a player habitually skips practice without word to the coach or an excuse, coaches have the authority to take away playing time.

If your athlete is ill, but not contagious, they need to make every effort to be at practice. Even if it means that they do not participate in practice, but are only able to watch. Otherwise, any new material that is taught, they will be unaware of, which creates problems for the entire team and for the individual athlete.

Tardiness is also not acceptable. If your athlete is going to be late, please contact us as early as possible to let us know. We ask that you arrive at least 15 minutes before any scheduled practice, so we can get started on time. We will try our best to maintain a consistent practice schedule, so you are able to plan accordingly.

We cannot possibly please everyone with the practice schedule, but we will do our best to accommodate as many people as possible. If you will be absent for any reason, please discuss it with us as much in advance as possible (especially for vacations, etc).

Effort/Expectations

We expect your athlete's best effort during the time they are in the gym for practice or for training. We expect that your athlete will let us know if he/she is feeling ill or is hurt. We expect them to be honest with us in this area, but we also expect that they will be honest with themselves when it comes to whether they can continue or not. Volleyball is a difficult sport and requires work. We believe that each athlete that works with us can achieve whatever they set their sights on, so long as they are willing to work hard consistently to get there. Nothing is achieved without effort. We will give 110% of our efforts and we ask for 110% of your athlete's effort also.

We will push your athlete during practice and during practice, but this is to make sure that they perform at their highest possible level. We know that, with any experience, you get out of it what you put into it. We also recognize that each athlete will develop and excel at an individual pace. There will be times when your athlete will get frustrated and disappointed. We want them to learn to deal with disappointments effectively and we ask that you encourage your child to keep working hard and make sure that he/she knows that they cannot compare themselves to anyone else. They will make improvements at their pace as long as they keep working.

Valuables

We encourage your athlete to leave valuables at home. Ozark Juniors Volleyball and the Arkansas Athletic Outreach are not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Cell Phone Policy

We encourage your athlete to not bring their cell phone to the gym. However, if they need to bring their phone in, they must turn them off during practice or classes. They will not be allowed to leave the floor to take or make phone calls. When we are on breaks or when we are finished with practice, they are welcome to check messages and return any calls.

Ozark Juniors Team Costs

Ozark Volleyball Academy teams are divided into National, Regional Plus, Regional and Local teams. Please see the "Programs" section of the website for more information about each of the different teams.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATION

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to insure that all payments are made on time. If payments are not made on time or a past due balance exists, then an individual may be held from practice or tournament opportunities until the account is corrected.

The fees listed represent the fee for the entire season. Acceptance to Ozark Juniors requires that you pay the entire amount. This is not a "pay as you play" payment plan. We only break down the fees into monthly payments (**SEE Payment Schedule on website**) to help offset the financial burden. If a player is injured, we *may* adjust the payments on an individual basis. Please understand that most of these fees will be incurred even if you cease to participate. For example gym rental, coaching fees, etc. will still be incurred.

We will seek to recover all fees that are due.

If you choose to leave Ozark Juniors, you will still be responsible for all dues.

All payments and fundraising money must be submitted in the form of pre-dated checks. A one time payment at the beginning of the season may be made and mailed directly to:

Ozark Juniors Volleyball
Attn. Jenny Lingenfelter
4988 W. Dover Street
Fayetteville, AR 72704

Please note that due to several factors, Ozark Juniors MAY adjust this schedule accordingly, NOT PROMISED, if it doesn't fit your individual needs.

The fees collected will include, but are not limited to the following costs: Administrative Fees, Gym Rental, Uniforms, Tournament Entry Fees, Hotel and Travel Expenses for Coaches, Coaching Fees.

Ozark Juniors Volleyball Club

Parent Handbook Acknowledgement

I have received a copy of the Ozark Juniors Volleyball Club Parent Handbook. I acknowledge that I have read the handbook and that I am responsible for knowing its contents. My signature below indicates that I agree to follow the policies outlined in this handbook.

Parent Signature

Date

Please print the name (s) of your athlete(s) and the team they play on