



Eau Claire Air Volleyball Club  
Player/Parent Handbook  
2016-2017 Season

## **Club Organization and Philosophy**

Eau Claire Air is a member of the Badger Region of USA Volleyball. USA Volleyball is the national governing body along with the US Olympic committee and is responsible for local, regional, national and international competition. All players, coaches, parent organizers and administrators involved in Eau Claire Air are required to obtain USAV membership.

Eau Claire Air is dedicated to the promotion and improvement of volleyball in Western Wisconsin. Our staff strives to teach the values of teamwork, responsibility, hard work, motivation, and discipline, while always exemplifying true sportsmanship. Club administrators and coaches are qualified to provide individual and team training in volleyball skills and strategy. Ultimately, we believe in being a "**Team First**" organization, trusting that all our athletes put their own interests second to the team's.

*Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a **team** work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.*  
- Vince Lombardi

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### ***Club Contact Information***

Best source for all E.C. Air information: [www.ecairvolleyball.com](http://www.ecairvolleyball.com)

Club Address: P.O. Box 132

Altoona, WI 54720

Phone (Voicemail Only): 715-577-4223

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/eau.claire.96>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/ECairVolleyball>

<b>Staff</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Contact</b>
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Lynn Schreiner	Schedules	<a href="mailto:lynn@ecairvolleyball.com">lynn@ecairvolleyball.com</a>

### **Commitment**

Our season runs from tryouts in mid-November through March, for most teams, and possibly into April for our elite teams. Prior to tryouts, players are asked to identify weekend conflicts, in which the club attempts to schedule competitions and practices to enable team members to participate in as many events as possible. There is no guarantee, however, that all conflicts will be avoided.

Each team will practice minimum once a week, Saturday and/or Sunday and possibly one weekday. Competitions are held on Saturday and/or Sunday and will take place two or three times each month. For our elite teams, a tournament may begin on Friday. Practice and

competition schedules, along with changes and cancellations, are posted on our website, [www.ecairvolleyball.com](http://www.ecairvolleyball.com) under the "Teams" link, where you will find your individual team. All individuals are encouraged to check the website routinely, as it's the best source for up-to-date information.

### **Commitment to your Eau Claire Air club TEAM**

We understand the difficulty in balancing academics, sports, family, and social life. A major lesson every athlete must learn is *how to plan ahead*. We expect players to be responsible individuals in knowing that lack of foresight is not an acceptable excuse in missing practices or tournaments.

In regards to being involved with other school sports and/or activities, it is up to the player to set her own priorities. Eau Claire Air expects that every player will do everything possible to fulfill her commitment to her Eau Claire Air team. The consequences for missing a practice or tournament, for a school activity, are no different than for other **legitimate** reasons. When an athlete misses an opportunity to practice, she misses an opportunity to improve. Not only does this affect an individual's performance, it affects the performance of the **team**. For our teams to compete at the highest level, our athletes need to remember the required commitment made to Eau Claire Air Volleyball Club.

**Athletes who have excessive absences will experience limited playing time at tournaments. Names of these athletes will also be forwarded to club administration, and absences may be a factor in team selection in subsequent seasons.**

### **Tryouts**

Each year we evaluate a large number of athletes during tryouts, and every athlete is evaluated every year. Each athlete must come to tryouts ready to compete for a place on one of our teams. An athlete with a limiting physical or medical condition should contact the club prior to tryouts. Players should never assume, because they are on a team one year, they will make a team the following year. Each year, athlete's skills improve and each year the pool of athletes to choose from will change. Some athletes have extensive playing experience while others do not. Athletes go through a physical evaluation; coaches evaluate their potential as well as intrinsic traits. We base our selections on what the athletes do during the tryout period and what we perceive their potential to be.

### **Tryout Procedure**

#### **Commitment Policy**

A player will not be required to commit to a club for which they were a registered member the previous season until 9:01 p.m. on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. For all other players, they are not required to commit until 9:01 p.m. on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. In other words, if you played for Eau Claire Air in the 2015-16 season and Eau Claire Air offers you a spot for the new season, that spot can be held until Tuesday night. If you receive an offer from a club that you did not play for in 2015-2016 season, that offer can be held until Thursday night. **As always, players are encouraged to let the Director know of your intentions as soon as the decision has been made.** Any extensions granted (or not) are the sole responsibility of Badger Region member clubs.

### Acceptance Process

After you have received an offer and have decided to commit to Eau Claire Air, the official acceptance policy is to log into Webpoint (<https://webpoint.usavolleyball.org>) and select the club from the dropdown menu. (On the left side, click "My Information" and then the far left tab titled "Main Info." You'll see a drop-down menu with "Undecided" in it. Choose the selected club from that list.). Please be sure to talk about this decision with your family, as once this decision is made, it is for the entire season.

**Eau Claire Air reserves the right to reconsider player placement after tryouts, until January 1<sup>st</sup>. After viewing a player post tryout, the club Director may choose a more appropriate placement for that individual.**

### Uniforms and Equipment

The club will provide each athlete with a team jersey. Any item lost, damaged or stolen will be replaced at the athlete's expense. Alls players will be required to wear black spandex of her choice (must be completely black) and court shoes (no running shoes). Players also have the option to acquire several additional clothing/equipment items. A player cannot wear jewelry, watches, but is allowed to wear barrettes or bobby pins (different from WIAA rules).

The club supplies practice volleyballs and athletic training kits. Athletic tape will be provided only to those who use it on an infrequent basis; regular users of tape should supply their own tape and pre-wrap.

### Practices

Players are expected to attend ALL practices. Coaches will handle missed practices on an individual basis at their own discretion. Coaches have the option of scheduling additional practices during the week if they are deemed necessary and if sanctioned gym space can be secured. Such practices must be scheduled through the club administration. Athletes who have excessive absences in practice will experience limited playing time at tournaments.

**ONLY IMPACT-CERTIFIED COACHES MAY BE PRESENT ON THE PRACTICE OR COMPETITION COURT(S).** We kindly ask that parents refrain from being "spectators" at practices.

### Tournaments

Most tournaments start between 8:00am and 9:00am. Tournaments will usually consist of a 4 or 5 team pool. Pool play is usually followed by a single elimination playoff, sometimes called 'bracket play'. Again, this will vary depending on the tournament format, but the final round of bracket play often lasts until 5 or 6 p.m. Competitions designated as "play days" involve pool play only and no bracket play.

Tournament Directors will e-mail the schedule to the club director, **sometimes as late as the DAY BEFORE THE EVENT**. Schedules and sites will be e-mailed, as soon as possible, and posted on the website ([www.ecairvolleyball.com](http://www.ecairvolleyball.com)). All players should arrive at the tournament site 45 minutes prior to the first match of the day (regardless of whether your team plays, refs, or has a bye). Driving directions to tournament sites can be found for most locations on [www.ecairvolleyball.com](http://www.ecairvolleyball.com), using an online directional service on our "Tournament Sites" page.

Teams will be required to supply referees, line judges and score keepers. All team members are expected to stay at the tournament until excused by the coaching staff.

Some tournaments charge an admission fee for spectators. Most tournaments provide some form of food concessions. Some tournaments do not allow carry-ins. It will usually be stated in the tournament information you receive if the site does not allow for carry-in food and drink. Please check with the coach before taking your player offsite for lunch.

Before leaving a tournament site, it is absolutely necessary to clean up our "area". Tournament directors will fine teams for any mess left at the tournament site.

PLEASE NOTE: It is crucial that you check winter driving conditions before traveling to allow for adequate time and safe passage. **TOURNAMENTS ARE NOT CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER.** The decision to travel, if the conditions are unsafe, will be made by the team organizer and director, who will notify the team as soon as possible. It may or may not be possible to schedule a replacement tournament.

At their discretion, parents may decide to travel to a tournament location the day/evening before and stay in a hotel. If you choose to do this, please notify the Parent Organizer and your team's coach. If a tournament location is more than two hours away, or play lasts for more than one day, your team's hotel coordinator will reserve a block of rooms for players and their families. The costs for staying overnight prior to a tournament are the responsibility of each player's family. Eau Claire Air provides payment for a room for team coaches. The hotel coordinator for each team will receive a list of tournaments that require a hotel stay for coaches.

### **Playing Time**

Players and parents are advised that time spent participating in practice, your attitude, knowledge and skill determine playing time with Eau Claire Air, NOT YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES. Players are guaranteed equal practice opportunities, but not equal playing time in tournaments. Competitive players want to be on the court, at all times, but the attitude Eau Claire Air is looking for is "what can I do to help the team?" Each player must be aware of their importance to the **team**, in whatever role that may be.

### **12U Playing Time Philosophy**

Athletes participating in 12U will be taught fundamentals, team strategy and **basic** specialization. All players will play in each pool-play match. Coaches should attempt parity of playing time, but may still consider practice attendance, understanding of new concepts and skill execution as factors that could influence the actual amount of playing time for each player.

### **Assistance with College Recruiting Process**

It is expected that some of the players in the program will hope to participate in volleyball throughout their collegiate years. The most important assistance will be in helping the individual become aware of opportunities to be seen by college recruiters. Assistance, including letters of recommendation, video production, and contact with college coaches will be provided upon request. During and after the club season, the director will publicize all college opportunities received by college coaches to club players.

Recruiters ARE NOT allowed to contact athletes and/or parents at a tournament site until the coaches have released the athlete. Please report any violations of this policy to the club director.

## **2016-2017 Membership Fees**

Eau Claire Air membership fees cover the cost of equipment, jersey, required scoring clinic, tournament entry fees, Badger Region insurance fees, first aid supplies for each team, USAV/Badger Region sanctioned gym rental, coaches' pay & travel and administrative costs.

Local teams (13-1, 13-2, 14-2, 15-2, 16-2): \$725

Elite teams (14-1, 15-1, 16-1, 17-1, 18-1): \$975

First installment (1/2 of total) is due by the mandatory Parent/Athlete Meeting, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Full payment due February 1, 2017.

Failure to pay dues will result in ineligibility to participate in competition, unless a payment plan is in place. Please contact the club Treasurer, [kim@ecairvolleyball.com](mailto:kim@ecairvolleyball.com), to discuss a payment plan option.

## **Spectator Behavior**

In our spectator enthusiasm, we are often prone to issue several instructions to the players that may be contrary to those of the coach, much to the confusion of the players. Please do not interfere with a team's coach, especially during play, or do anything else that will detract from the enjoyment your child deserves to get from volleyball. We ask that all spectators let the athletes play to the best of their ability and leave what coaching is needed, to the coach.

Stating disagreement or shouting derogatory remarks, at players, coaches and officials serves no useful purpose. **Any parent whose words or actions reflect negatively on their child's team, coach or the Eau Claire Air Volleyball Club will be asked to leave the tournament.**

## **The Parent/Player/Coach Triad**

By choosing Eau Claire Air, you have chosen to be affiliated with a developmental, competitive club, striving to help players be the best athlete they can be. This is the direct result of more than 18 years of commitment to excellence by the club directors and the coaching staff, past and present. The hard work and commitment of our players, and the support of their families, help continue the tradition.

Eau Claire Air Coaches are responsible to their entire team, never to one specific player and must consider each player as part of the whole. Our staff takes this responsibility very seriously. Every coach is looking to get the most out of their team, but in order to do so, they look to get the most out of every individual on their team. Eau Claire Air Coaches are instructed to make every player a valuable contributing member of the team, by:

1. Giving every player an opportunity in practice to earn playing time
2. Giving every player a specific role (We ask that Parents support their daughter in whatever that role may be).

Eau Claire Air Coaches are required to:

- Go through a background check (conducted by Badger Region).
- Attend IMPACT, a coach development training (required by the USA Volleyball organization).
- Attend the Eau Claire Air Coaching Clinic.

- Sign an Eau Claire Air Coaching Contract.

During the course of the season there may be times a player is unhappy with some of the decisions a coach makes. ***Players are encouraged to discuss their concerns with their coach at an appropriate time.*** Coaches have been instructed to be open to such conversations. The appropriate time is not in the middle of a practice, set, match or tournament. The appropriate time is to be mutually agreed upon by the coach and player.

At times, a parent may also be unhappy about a coach's decision. Parents need to know that a public display of displeasure or an inappropriate reaction can prove to be ***extremely disruptive to the entire team.*** A coach who is openly second-guessed, or whose motives are questioned, will not be as effective, as a coach who is supported by the team and the team's families. These actions can also demoralize and divide the team. Publicly second-guessing their daughter's coach, or questioning the motives of the coach, has historically proven to have disruptive consequences. There is a time and place for the expression of such concerns. ***At a tournament is not the time or place.*** To emphasize that point, we have adopted the following policy:

***A parent shall not initiate any contact or conversation with a coach regarding match management decisions, playing time, or personnel issues at any time during a tournament or within 24 hours after the completion of a tournament. Furthermore, a parent or player shall not publicly act in a manner that questions the decisions or motives of the coach or another player. Any violations of the above policy will result in immediate suspension of the player (i.e. the responsible parents' daughter) from further competition for the remainder of the day and until such time as the situation is resolved to the satisfaction of the Club Director.***

Procedure to be followed when a player has concerns about playing time or role on a team is as follows:

- 1) The player should discuss the situation with their coach at a time mutually agreed upon.
- 2) If not resolved to the player's satisfaction, the player should discuss the situation with club director.

***A parent can request to discuss the situation with the coach only:***

- ***After the player and coach have discussed situation***
- ***Through a request to the Club Director***

***The Director will discuss parent concerns with the coach, after which the coach can opt to discuss things directly with the parent, or can refer the parent concern to the club director's discretion to resolve. The club director will investigate the situation and report back to the player and/or parent.***

### **Medical Insurance**

The medical insurance program provides participant coverage for loss resulting directly from members competing in an approved or sanctioned event. The coverage extends from the start through the completion of the event, including travel to and from the event. Coverage does not include loss for pre-existing conditions or competing in non-sanctioned events.

The medical policy provides \$25,000 of excess accidental medical coverage for expenses incurred within one year of the date of the accident. Claims must be filed within 90 days of the accident, however. The policy provides coverage against loss in excess of insurance and is subject to a \$250 per claim deductible. If no other collectible medical insurance is available, the loss is subject to a \$1,000 deductible. All coverage is subject to the plan's general limitations and exclusions.

If a player has sustained an injury in practice or a game, the coach should be alerted as soon as possible. The coach will fill out an incident report pertaining to any injury minor or major at the time of the injury. If any injury appears serious enough, medical care should be sought immediately. Parents should make a claim of medical bills to the family's medical coverage or through their employer's group policy. If, because of a deductible clause, parents would incur expenses, they should request a claim form and instruction sheet from the club director. Carefully follow the instructions on the claim form.

## **PARENT VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTIONS**

### **TEAM ORGANIZER:**

- Become a USAV member ("Chaperone") and agree to a criminal background check, both paid for by E.C. Air.
- Be available at the first organizational meeting to collect dues and assign volunteer duties.
  - Print Volunteer Descriptions and give to Parents
- Organize and oversee parent volunteers.
- Create a directory with names and phone numbers of the people on your team.
- Serve as the liaison between the club director and team members. Add the club director to your e-mail distribution list.
- Maintain a copy of your team's official USAV roster in case your coach does not have one for tournament directors.
- If not arranged by hotel coordinator, pay for coaches' hotel room(s) and submit coaches' hotel receipts to be reimbursed by E.C. Air.
- Report player/parent grievances to the director who will help you act as a buffer/protector for your coach(es).
- The club provides coaches with a small stipend at the end of the season. However, we have found that players and parents like to show their appreciation for their coaches personally. The team organizer has generally taken responsibility for coordinating the coaches' gifts.

**TEAM SPIRIT/CAMARADERIE COORDINATOR:** Discuss ideas with coach or help a coach initiate ways to help build a team spirit and camaraderie among the players. Things that have been done in the past were: Pasta feeds, bonfire or a meal at someone's home; meet at a restaurant for a meal together; meet for bowling or some other activity; team memory books; team activities at hotels on tournaments requiring an overnight stay. You will also coordinate the team's year-end party/gathering.

**RESULTS REPORTER (2 PEOPLE NEEDED):** Submit E.C. Air results reporting form to the club director within 2 days of every tournament. Submit photographs for our website (one team picture + action photos) and submit one team photo to the local newspaper(s). (You will receive more information from the director prior to your first tournament)

**E.C. AIR TOURNAMENT LIAISON:** Coordinate food donations, schedule parents to help set up and run the concession stand for the E.C. AIR tournament (which will take place at Altoona High School). Parents/Athletes will be asked to work opposite of their tournament play (*Example: You play Saturday, work Sunday*). More information will be available and emailed to you beginning of December 2012.

**HALL MONITOR (2 parents can share responsibility):** As a club, we promote safety at all practices. We require a parent from each team to be present at each practice. If this person is unable to work at a practice s/he should find a replacement to ensure that a parent is present. The hall monitor should carry a cell phone and, in the event of an emergency, would transport an injured player to a clinic or hospital. Hall monitors should also work with coaches to ensure that nets are set up on time, as well as taken down and equipment stored properly. *We suggest that hall monitors bring a camp chair and good book to read!*

**EQUIPMENT MANAGER:** Store and transport team balls, ball cart and first-aid kit to all practices and tournaments. Keep balls pumped up and frequently check first-aid kit contents and contact the equipment coordinator if items need to be replaced. The first aid kit will contain the medical forms for each athlete. Return equipment to the equipment coordinator at the conclusion of the season.

HOTEL RESERVATION COORDINATOR: Set up a room block (1 room per player + 1 room w/2 double beds for coaches) and negotiate a group rate at hotels for Saturday night of the Presidents' Day Festival in the Twin Cities (Feb. 19-20) and other tournaments approved as "overnight" tournaments by the club director (you will receive a list of these tournaments and suggested hotel(s), as it would be ideal to have all EC Air teams that are competing stay at the same hotel). Find out if coaches need a room and book their room for them. Please pay for the coaches' room (or the team organizer may pay for the room), then submit a copy of coaches' room receipt and E.C. Air will reimburse you.