

***Please read carefully***

This document outlines the specific terms, guidelines and rules for members, players and/or parents to adhere to while participating on a BOLT Club Team. All parents, guardians, and players of BOLT Volleyball are required to agree and accept the terms, guidelines, rules and waivers set forth by BOLT Volleyball. Failure to acknowledge, authorize and accept these terms will disqualify a player's eligibility to participate in BOLT Volleyball's Club Program. No player will be allowed to participate in any of the club events until a complete acceptance is received.

- Consequences will likely be related to a noncompliance of these terms, guidelines and/or rules which are listed within this document.
- Consequences listed are a standard mandate for all club players. These are minimum mandates and are allowed to be extended by the head coach or a Director as deemed necessary.
- These Guidelines and Rules are not limited to those listed in this document. Therefore, any action or communication which may be viewed as disruptive or disrespectful from players or parents to other players, parents, staff or management may result in the responsible party being suspended or terminated from the club or club events and activities.
- Special circumstance request for exceptions to these terms, guidelines, rules or consequences MUST be communicated/requested to the head coach, then, may only be approved by the Director or Board of Coaches. "Level of play" will be a consideration in determining exceptions.

These guidelines or consequences are not to be abusive or disrespectful to players and/or parents. They are in place for coaches and players to maintain a level of consistent training methods in a team concept without disruption along with respecting player and or players' commitment levels.

**The word "event or events" in this document refers to team practices, tournaments, fundraisers and gathering for any purpose.**

**A. Payments**

All required fees and/or payments should be paid in full by the specified/required due dates. For payments and/or accounts "not current" prior to a club event, a player will not be allowed to participate in the upcoming event until the account is current therefore will result in an absence of participation. *(See Section C Attendance)* All club season payments must be paid in full, regardless of due dates, prior to the Lone Star Regional Tournament

## B. Playing / practice time

It should be understood that all players of all club teams will receive equal training and practice time during every practice and/or scheduled training session. However, it should be understood that **the length of playing time for a player during a tournament or match is not guaranteed**. The decision of playing time will be based on situational circumstances, player performance and coaching strategies.

*However, variances to comply with rules stated within this entire document could effect a player's court time during practice and games. These may result based on the consequences listed or the decision of the Head Coach.*

**Level of Play Application:** All governing bodies of Junior Volleyball require that teams within a "club" be ranked. Although that ranking is not specified, all tournaments are arranged so that the levels of competition are based that the top/#1 ranked team in a club, within a division is the highest competitive. With the following tiered teams being "ranked" accordingly.

Therefore, the "Attendance" guidelines are and will be appropriated accordingly to the "ranking" of teams and the players within to maintain the expected level of a team's succession. All other rules and guidelines are typical for ALL teams.

*Please note...other areas within this document refer to the "Attendance" portion/requirements of these guidelines as well*

- **First ranked team within a division**
  - More than one unscheduled absences or two scheduled absences within a 90 day period will result in a formal warning
  - Additional absences beyond the formal warning within that 90 day time period and/or multiple warnings in consecutive 90 day periods, may result in a team suspension or lower team placement
  - Team suspension or team placement based on absences will result in the full and complete payment of fees of the team level in which the player initially joined
- **Second ranked team within a division**
  - More than two unscheduled absences or four scheduled absences within a 90 day period will result in a formal warning
  - Additional absences beyond the formal warning within that 90 day time period

will result in a probation status

- Additional absences beyond the probation status within that 90 day time period may result in a team suspension or lower team placement
- Team suspension or team placement based on absences will result in the full and complete payment of fees of the team level in which the player initially joined
- 

## C. Attendance

Attendance to all scheduled club/team events is required

### 1. Advanced scheduling of absences

- a. Parents/players are expected to furnish the coach with a schedule of conflicts which may cause a player to miss an event within the first 30 days of the season. Beyond the initial schedule any conflict not reported within 30 days of affected event will be considered "not scheduled"  
\*\*"Scheduling" applies to a period of 30 days in advance referencing both the individual and club expectations. Notice beyond this time is considered "not scheduled"
- b. Absences outside of rule 1.a. above should be communicated to the head coach as soon as learning of the situation/conflict. This communication does not necessarily indicate that this situation will be excusable and not exposed to relative circumstances as an unexcused absence. Determination will be at the coach's and/or Director's discretion. If not immediately communicated upon learning of conflict, player will not be allowed to participate within the next club event.
- c. Absences which are not communicated at all to the head coach prior to a scheduled event will result in a player not being allowed to participate in the next event or the 1<sup>st</sup> match of the upcoming tournament, whichever comes first.

### 2. Consequences

- a. For **more than** 1 absence of an event, outside of rule 1.a. above, a player will be suspended 1 set **per absence** from playing in the upcoming tournament. Additional suspensions per set per absence beyond the 1 outside of rule 1.a. consequences will be cumulative.

- b. Regardless of scheduled conflicts (rule 1.a.), a player who misses one practice during the week prior to a tournament, will not be allowed to play in the first set of that tournament. If a player misses both practices within a week prior to a tournament they will not be allowed to play in the first match of the upcoming tournament.

*Exceptions to this rule, as well as others may be upheld based on an illness or family emergency and/or other circumstances that may constitute an exception. Exception may only be approved by the Club Director*

### **3. Make-ups**

- a. Individual make-up practices will not be allowed or an acceptable variance to rules. However, if necessary, a complete team make up or scrimmage requiring a 3 day a week attendance would suffice as an individual makeup.

### **4. Absences applicable to circumstances**

- b. When a player is facing circumstances related to a failure to comply with rules and guidelines, and chooses to miss the upcoming event or part of an event, a complete suspension of the upcoming tournament will be required.

**It should be known that player absences are the largest detriment to a teams' ability to consistently function as a whole, as well as a coach's ability to designate positions or develop strategies for the strength of team. Situations which may dictate a coach to develop strategies for match play not inclusive of absent players, may be necessary. Therefore, affecting a player's ability to "fit" into a line-up during competition. Obviously, this situation would affect a player's playing opportunities.**

## **D. Tardiness**

Players are required to be punctual, according to the head coach's direction relative to arriving for practices, games and other events. This includes but is not limited to the advanced arrival to tournaments and practices in which a head coach may require. Players which arrive later than 15 mins, without an effort of communication made of the **coach's required arrival time (not the time of the event)** will not be allowed to participate within the first set or 30 minutes of the relative event. More than 3 incidents of tardiness, regardless of time, between the term of an event will be deemed as one violation to rule C.1.c. and circumstances will be applied. One tardy to any one event over 40 minutes will be considered an unscheduled absence, pending efforts of communication and circumstances.

## **E. Notification**

It is imperative that the head coach is notified a minimum of 2 hours before event

times if a player will not attend or may be late to a tournament. Failure to do so will result in an application of rule C.1.c.

## F. Forfeits

Any team which may forfeit (not inclusive of a refundable withdrawal) a match due to circumstances resulting from too many players being absent or late, the entire team will be forced to withdraw from the upcoming following tournament. To clarify, a forfeit would be considered a last minute, nonrefundable withdrawal from a match due to immediate circumstances.

## G. Communications

1. Any and all correspondence directed towards coaches or staff relative to individual player results, playing time, positioning, strategies, etc. **should be delayed 48 hrs.** from the end of the last competition.
2. It is encouraged to speak with coaches and/or staff of your child's performance, progression and role on a team outside of rule G.1.
3. All communications of player performance, playing time, disputes, disagreements, inquiries, etc. from parents must be directed to the head coach only. The director and/or staff members will not interject until a situation is deemed "necessary" or it is agreed by both the coach and parent that a situation is in need of intervention.
4. Constructive criticism and opinions are fine and sometimes appreciated, however derogatory, accusatory, and insulting statements and/or comments will not be responded to or tolerated.
5. All correspondence/issues/concerns must be addressed in a professional and respectable manner. Any correspondence outside of this manner will not be acceptable.
  - a. Communications outside of this manner will be deemed "against these terms and guidelines" and relative circumstances may apply.
6. Any and all players are welcome and encouraged to speak, inquire or address coaches/staff at any time. This is the preferred communication method when it comes to any and all player related correspondence and questions. Though it is understood that this may be difficult and not expected for the very young players, this will teach and offer experience to the older players to deal with situations.

## H. Uniforms / Attire

All players are required to wear complete designated practice and game uniforms. This to include but not limited to apparel distributed for club participation. Team uniformity is required during all tournament play. Not only will this include game uniforms but also applies to hair ribbons, shoe laces, outerwear, socks, masks etc. (cloth and soft hair bands are the exception to this) It is suggested that all players carry any and all uniforms and equipment with them at all times. Any alteration to uniforms which may be physically apparent by players, parents and/or coaches without consent and approval from the organization director will be considered "out of uniform".

1. In and if the event occurs in which the club has not yet provided the specified attire for the event players shall provide their own gear and/or attire as long as it meets the following guidelines: No clothing or attire will resemble, advertise or promote alcohol, drugs, politics, race, religion or social preference

a. Any variation from this rule will result in a player being dismissed from an associated event.

## I. Conduct

Players, parents, coaches and staff are responsible for handling themselves in a respectful manner. At no time will there be exceptions allowed to this rule.

For anyone within the organization who may address another in a disrespectful or aggressive manner will be asked to remove themselves from the situation, whether at a tournament, practice or event. Additional occurrences by an individual will result in a removal from the organization.

1. Regardless of age groups, players are expected to treat each other with respect.

Players also will respect and follow the guidance, instruction and/or decisions of not only their head coach, but those of all coaches within the organization and referees.

2. Parents are to be observant and supportive. At no times are parents allowed to approach or address a player, coach or staff member during a tournament or practice in a negative or aggressive manner. Though constructive suggestions are valuable in cases, these should be reserved for times outside of the above-mentioned events.

3. Negative outbursts at any time directed to players, coaches, other parents and/or referees are not acceptable and will not be tolerated and subject to suspension or termination from future events.

4. Players, parents, spectators and staff will understand that in BOLT's gym and/or attending an event as a representative of BOLT Volleyball it is not acceptable to discuss, debate or protest social, race, religious or political views and/or opinions
  - a. Any variation from the above listed rules will result in a player being dismissed from an associated event, team or organization in which refunds in these instances will not be provided.

#### **J. Termination or Cancellation of Membership**

If at any time throughout the season a decision is made by a player or player's parent to terminate their membership with BOLT Volleyball for any reason, payments received will not be refunded. It is understood that the sport of volleyball can be frustrating and mostly misunderstood, specifically from a coach's perspective. That being said, at BOLT we encourage players and parents to address the coaches, staff and/or director in a respectable manner, with concerning issues, prior to a situation going "beyond repair".

#### **K. Bi - Monthly Team Gatherings**

It is required for teams to gather every other month during the season outside of the gym and/or volleyball. This may be inclusive of a fundraising event or simply a meeting to allow the players to gain a trust and relationship outside the game. These gatherings are and should be viewed as an "event" therefore player attendance is required.

#### **L. Fundraising**

Team and/or club fundraisers are required "events", therefore attendance by all players is required. At least one team and one club fundraiser are required by all teams.

#### **M. General (Any or continued abuse to the following guidelines could result in the circumstances related within this documents)**

1. Team unity, cooperation and support are very important to be successful as a group. During "scheduled referee times" for teams when teammates are required to referee or keep score for games it is required for the remaining players on the team to stay at that court being worked by their teammates for the entirety of the match. Though, in cases it may be acceptable for the remainder of the team to group in other or adjacent areas, it should be understood that no player will leave the facility while a teammate is working a game.



2. Team and player unity are critical tools in developing trust amongst players and coaches, however a display of romantic fraternization between players and between coaches is forbidden while attending a BOLT Volleyball event. This to include any and all circumstances, situations or arrangements which are derived from or associated with an event.
3. During tournaments, while in between games or 30 minutes before a game, players are required to stay with their respective teammates. Of course, errands and necessary tasks are understood during this “down time”.
4. Player phone usage can be a distraction of focus and a definite disruption while physically socializing with teammates, coaches or staff. Therefore, 5 minutes prior to the start or finish and during practice, phone usage is not allowed in the gym. If it is necessary for a parent to get a message to a player or in case of an emergency the head coach and/or any coach or staff member should be contacted. At that time, the message will be delivered to the player. On tournament days, 30 minutes prior to the start of the first match and up until after the last match, phone usage will not be allowed. Situations which may require a variance to this must be approved by the head coach. If necessary to contact a player during tournament times it is asked that the head coach and/or other staff members be contacted. In the case that the above mentioned phone restrictions whether at practice or at a tournament are not followed, coaches are recommended to remove the phone from the player and give to the parent if available. Otherwise a coach should remove the phone from the player, keep in a safe place and return after whatever event may be taking place.
5. During games, tournaments and practices, coaches are responsible for the safety and well-being of their players. Therefore, during those times players will respect the requests of their coach or coaches. This applies as well during the act of practice and/or game play, it is asked that parents do not “coach” and or try to correct their child during these times.
6. No jewelry or plastic/metal headbands will be worn by any player during practice, games or in between tournament matches. In the case that this restriction is not followed, the player will be given one warning and asked to remove the item and/or items. At that point the player will be responsible for securing their personal valuables. BOLT will not be responsible for any items which may become misplaced or missing. Beyond the first warning, if another instance occurs, the player will be asked to perform extended physical activity.
7. Each team will be required to designate a team parent and Chaperone. Team parents’ will coordinate team events, parties, gatherings, etc. Chaperones’ will



be responsible for overseeing players while at venues and off court time, ensuring players are safe, secure and accounted for (Chaperone agreement required) Team stat keepers will be responsible for keeping and collecting stats on players throughout games. Then will be required to turn into head coach at the end of each game. This person may change per event, match or set. If positions are not fulfilled the head coach and/or organization will appoint these roles.

8. It is required that anyone under the age of 18 who is not a player for BOLT Volleyball, this to include siblings, relatives and/or friends of players be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times for all functions related to BOLT Volleyball. This to include but not limited to practices, trainings, games, tournaments, parties, etc. It should be understood that even in situations in which a responsible adult is present, that adult will take full and complete responsibility for the person under the age of 18. This responsibility applies to, but is not limited to, injuries, damages, loss of belongings, missing persons or death. BOLT Volleyball, its facilities or entities will not be responsible or held responsible for situations mentioned above.
9. Spectators at BOLT practices, scrimmages and/or tournaments in the Crosspoint gym are allowed and encouraged, however it should be understood that all spectators enter and observe at their own risk.
10. It is required and expected that all players, parents, coaches and staff while representing or being a representative of BOLT Volleyball will represent themselves and the organization in a respectable manner.
11. Beyond these stated guidelines, individual coaches may have or request requirements of players beyond terms, guidelines and rules within this document. These requirements are to be communicated via form of written notice to parents or players. These expectations are expected to be followed and may hold circumstances established by individual coaches for noncompliance.

**The information within this document is strictly intended to establish a fair and transparent understanding of the rules and guidelines for all club members. This information is developed and will be followed without prejudice or preference. However, it should be understood that there may be personal and private member information which may affect the dictation of variable guidelines which will remain private and protected. Therefore, BOLT Volleyball reserves the right to alter, adjust or suspend the content of this document in the best interest of a member or members without challenge from any parties. Continued abuse or misuse of these terms, guidelines or rules could result in removal from the BOLT Club Program.**

