

WEVA

Western Empire Volleyball Association

Western New York Region of USA Volleyball

WEVA

CODE

OF

CONDUCT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

"The WEVA Spirit"	3
The Code	
General Conduct	4
Player Conduct	4-5
Parent / Spectator Conduct	5
Coaches Conduct	5-6
Club Conduct	6
Officials Conduct	6
Code Enforcement	7

Version 3.0 – Modification of dates for Off-season, WEVA season, Club tryouts within the Club Conduct section to align with the new fiscal year for USA volleyball.

2/6/2013

Version 4.0 – Modification to the Coaches Conduct, Club Conduct and code enforcement sections due to the creation of WEVA TRYOUT REGISTRATION and RECRUITING POLICY document. Removal of definitions (included in new document).

6/24/2014

“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.

I. General Conduct

- 1) The “Spirit of WEVA” should be adhered to in regards to the choice players and families make for club participation.
- 2) Alcohol and Drug Use:
 - a) State and Federal 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 and apply to all participants of USAV/WEVA sanctioned events.
 - b) Any person found in violation of these laws during USAV/WEVA sanctioned events may be subject to prosecution by law enforcement officials and will be suspended from WEVA for a period of time – as determined by the WEVA Ethics & Eligibility Committee.
 - c) Team chaperones and coaches assume responsibility for monitoring player conduct both on and off the court at USAV/WEVA sanctioned events to ensure that drinking and drug use laws are upheld.
 - d) The legal consumption of alcohol by parents, team chaperones, coaches and tournament officials should be done in a responsible manner at all times, and in adherence to all local, state and federal laws.

II. Player 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 to the referees
 - iv) Will wear sneakers
 - v) Not use electronic devices (e.g. cell phones, PDAs, MP3 or CD players, computers, 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, and will be present at the court as part of the work team.
- 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 match officials and/or tournament 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) – as determined by the WEVA Ethics & Eligibility Committee.

5) In addition to abiding by the general code of conduct, all players will follow all team, club, tournament and hotel guidelines.

III. Parent / Spectator Conduct

1) Each club assumes full responsibility for orienting all participating parents / spectators to appropriate parent conduct during all sanctioned events. At all times parents / spectators are expected to demonstrate respect for athletes, coaches, referees, other parents, other spectators, and WEVA staff.

Parents /spectators will not:

- 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 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.

IV. Coaches Conduct

1) Coaches must follow all rules as set-out by the Official Rules of USA Volleyball.

2) In addition, throughout the event the Coaches must behave in ways that:

- a) Display the utmost respect for their own and their opponent's athletes and coaches
- b) Display the utmost respect for the officials, lines persons and scorekeepers

3) 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 spectators 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 disciplinary action – as determined by the WEVA Ethics & Eligibility Committee.

4) Coaches shall NOT abuse their power and role with players in a manner that threatens, harms, humiliates, induces fear, or causes a student substantial emotional distress. This includes physical (including sexual), mental, emotional, racial and any / all crimes associated with teacher / student or adult / child laws set out by federal, state and local legislation and guidelines.

5) Coaches affiliated with WEVA and an area high school program can and should encourage their players to play club volleyball so long as said coaches are acting within the spirit of WEVA and not violating the **Club Code of Conduct** outlined below as well as the **WEVA Tryout Registration and Recruiting Policy**.

V. Club Conduct

1) Information: **Club Directors** will be responsible to update the WEVA website with the clubs mission along with information in regards to any meeting dates, team selection dates, potential club fees, practice schedule/requirements and club contacts. This information must be posted by September 1st. All tryouts MUST be sanctioned via the WEVA website before they begin.

2) See the WEVA Tryout, Registration and Recruiting Policy for detail information in regards to the following:

1. The release of players during and after WEVA season has concluded
2. Player registration
3. Acceptable and unacceptable recruiting guidelines
4. Player and parent recourse for unwanted contact or harassment
5. Penalties for violation of the policy

VI. Officials Conduct

1) Officials must follow all rules as set-out by the Official Rules of USA Volleyball.

2) In addition, throughout the event the Officials must behave in ways that:

- a) Display the utmost respect for players, coaches and parents / spectators
- b) Display the utmost respect for other officials, lines persons and scorekeepers

3) Officials are required to assume leadership in enforcing the “Spirit of WEVA”. If they fail to be good role models for their athletes, parents, and spectators or fail to provide responsible leadership in the enforcement of the player or parent Code of Conduct, they may be subject to disciplinary action – as determined by the WEVA Ethics & Eligibility Committee.

4) Officials shall NOT abuse their power and role with players in a manner that threatens, harms, humiliates, induces fear, or causes a student substantial emotional distress. This includes physical (including sexual), mental, emotional, racial and any / all crimes associated with teacher / student or adult / child laws set out by federal, state and local legislation and guidelines.

VII. Code Enforcement

1) Violations of the Code of Conduct by any WEVA participant may lead to a variety of disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion – as determined by the WEVA Ethics & Eligibility Committee. The WEVA Ethics & Eligibility Committee (WEC) members are defined in the WEVA due process document.

2) In the event WEVA is contacted with a complaint in regards to a guideline violation, the WEVA Director, President or designee will contact the WEC. The WEC will determine which member will lead the investigation. For junior recruiting violations, the vice-president of the WEVA board will be contacted (providing he/she does not have any affiliation with active WEVA junior clubs.

3) Leader will interview over phone or in person all pertinent parties (who alleged the complaint, Athletes involved, club representative involved, etc.) within two weeks of receiving complaint. Leader will submit a written report to the WEC for discussion and approval within one week of completing interviews.

4) WEC will then submit the written report to the WEVA Executive Board with a consensus finding stating whether or not the guidelines were violated. If the complaint involves any member of any club from the WEC then that WEC member is exempt from this process.

As it is the club's responsibility to ensure that all registered members are aware of these guidelines, the following sanctions would apply for violation of conduct outlined in this COC. Any violations in regards to the WEVA tryout registration recruiting policy the penalties are outlines specifically in that document.

1st Offense:

The club/organization will receive a written warning from the WEVA Executive Board outlining the complaint and the WEC finding. The club/organization will reply in writing to the WEVA Board acknowledging the infraction and a proposed corrective action plan outlining what efforts the club is taking to prevent a re-occurrence. (This can include additional education, removal of registered adult, etc.)

2nd Offense:

If any club has a second offense within two (2) competitive seasons that club will be ineligible to receive WEVA funds for post season tournaments for that season. If the second offense involves the same registered adult, then that WEVA membership will be revoked for the remainder of the competitive season.

3rd Offense:

If any club has a third offense within three (3) competitive seasons that club will be ineligible to receive WEVA funds for post season tournaments for that season AND will be ineligible to compete in the WEVA bid tournament for that season. If the third offense involves the same registered adult, then that WEVA membership will be revoked for the remainder of the competitive season AND the following competitive season.