

Winter – Spring 2024/2025 Volleyball Handbook



Blazerz Juniors Volleyball Club Winter/Spring Season Parent & Player Handbook 2024-2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. DIRECTORY.....	2
Phone, Fax and E-mail Directory	
II. INTRODUCTION.....	3-4
Blazerz Juniors Volleyball Club Intro	
III. PROGRAM OVERVIEW.....	5-7
Procedures, Practices and Details	
IV. PAYMENT INFORMATION	8-10
Fees Details	
V. CODES OF CONDUCT	11
Parents and Athletes	
VI. TEAM & COACH COMMUNICATION	12
VII. PARENTS/ATHLETES AGREEMENT	13

Winter – Spring 2024/2025 Volleyball Handbook



CONTACTS

Blazerz Juniors Volleyball Club

P. O. BOX 631
Yonkers, NY 10702
Phone: 914-912-7460
Fax: 888-379-5532
E-mail: info@blazerzjuniorsvbc.com

Club Director & Head coach

Marie J Calixte-Cranston
Mobile: 914-439-1296
Fax: 888-379-5532
E-mail: marie_c@blazerzjuniorsvbc.com

Coaches:

Jena Guilfoyle
Mobile: 914-512-4847
E-mail: jena_g@blazerzjuniorsvbc.com

Cristy Encarnacion
Mobile: 929-368-0957
E-mail: cristy_e@blazerzjuniorsvbc.com

Ireana Olivo
Mobile: 718-593-0461
E-mail: ireana_o@blazerzjuniorsvbc.com

Stefanie Inoa
Mobile: 914-230-6225
E-mail: stefanie_i@blazerzjuniorsvbc.com

Emilia Hogg

Winter – Spring 2024/2025 Volleyball Handbook

Mobile: 914-860-4284

E-mail: emilia_h@blazerzjuniorsvbc.com



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Blazerz Juniors Volleyball Club!

The sport of volleyball has exploded in the last two decade. The growth was further fueled by the introduction of the nationwide Girls Junior National Club Program which was the brainchild of the sport's governing body, USA Volleyball. The volleyball world has since been getting bigger and bigger, and more young students/athletes are trying to play. Here in New York State it's getting bigger than it ever was, so it's really exciting.

Popularity for women's volleyball is also increasing at the high school level. In August 2012, a survey was done by the National Federation of State High School Associations ranked volleyball as No. 3 in girls most popular sport programs, after basketball and track and field. This showed an increase of 187 more high schools participating in volleyball than in 2009, with an increase in about 25,000 more participants. Volleyball in most school program has become a big deal. The resultant is high school volleyball is increasingly getting more support from their respective athletic departments with the goal of having the top program in their respective conferences. The ultimate goal for these students/athletes is to be good enough to attract college recruiters in the hopes of getting a full or partial athletic scholarship.

The demand for additional Volleyball clubs came about as more and more girls and boys sought to play volleyball well past their short two months high school season.

Winter – Spring 2024-2 025 Volleyball Handbook



Blazerz Juniors Volleyball Club is a club in the Northern Counties with **GEVA** “Garden Empire Volleyball Association” which is our Regional Volleyball Association and with the **USA V** “USA Volleyball” the National Association. We also affiliate with the AAU “Amateur Athletic Union”

We are located in Westchester County in the city of Yonkers, NY and welcome all prospective players’ boys and girls from the age of 8 to 18 year old.

With the sport of volleyball, one strengthens the muscles, improves coordination and reflexes, and enhances teamwork and communication skills. Join the **Blazerz Juniors Volleyball Club** to learn and improve your game and have some fun while doing it.

The Blazerz Juniors Volleyball Club Program, we hope, will become one of the region’s largest and greatest volleyball programs in Westchester by offering what we describe as the Best Experience for our students/athletes. It’s our commitment to provide our students/athletes with the best coaches, best training so they can experience all the benefits that this sport offers.

We believe that by offering our students/athletes an end-to-end volleyball solution, they will be in the position to dramatically improve their on-court skills and become better all-around players. This will allow our students/athletes the best opportunity to meet and even exceed their short and long-term goals.

We look forward to your involvement with the Blazerz Juniors Volleyball Club program!

Winter – Spring 2024/2025 Volleyball Handbook



Program Overview

The Blazerz Juniors Volleyball Club Program is designed to meet the individual goals for each students/athletes. The success of our teams and the overall program is measured not only on wins & losses but on the growth of each students/athletes' on-court skills and abilities.

For the upcoming 2024-2025 season, the Blazerz Juniors Volleyball Club wishes to have in the field girls and boys teams at the 10-11u, 12u, 13u, 14u, 15u, 16u, 17u, and 18u levels.

Placement on the teams will depend on how the students/athletes perform at tryouts as long as we get enough athletes to tryout. We do not wish to turn children away, we prefer to get them prepare for the future and hope that they stay with our Blazerz Juniors Volleyball Club for the long and prosperous years playing Volleyball.

Unless circumstances dictate otherwise, each team will have between 10 -12 students/athletes. **Equal playing time is NOT guaranteed.** That being said, it is our goal to ensure that each students/athletes will see significant playing time in each game. Game circumstances will dictate the exact amount of playing time. In addition, our coaches have been instructed to reward hard work with playing time. If we see a child that comes to every practice and always give 100%, their playing time will reflect this work ethic!

There will be NO direct parental involvement in our program.

As mentioned above, skills developments are our primary concern. We expect that each of our students/athletes will dramatically improve their on-court skills by taking advantage of each aspect of our teams program. The teams will practice twice per week; we will have 2 hours each session. Weekday practices will take place from 5:00pm -7:00pm and/or 7:15pm -9:15pm at the Yonkers Montessori Academy and/or at the St. Ann's School. Practice begins in the month of September 2024 – April/May 2024, depend on certain circumstances.

While we stress skills developments, we understand that our students/athletes are looking for a competitive outlet. The Regional Teams will play in at least 6 local/regional tournaments unless they are cancelled for some reason. Our National Teams will play at least 4 local/regional tournaments and will also participate in three or four other national tournaments outside the New York State or New Jersey State if possible.

Tournaments will be picked based on the team's ability level to help ensure a successful experience. Teams that qualify for regional and national championships will have the option to attend at an additional cost if needed to.

At tournaments, coaches have very little control over game times and CANNOT change times based on expected parents/players participation. Players must attend every tournament unless there's a perfect and understandable reason why he/she cannot attend on that day.

Winter – Spring 2024/2025 Volleyball Handbook

Any player who misses a tournament will have a penalty of \$150 if the club director or a coach was not informed at least a week or two prior.



Reason Why:

If the club register a team on a tournament and the team does not have enough players to play that tournament GEVA will charge Blazerz Juniors Volleyball Club a FEE of up to \$1000 for that team in addition of the HOLD that will be put on every other teams that the club has. However, we realize that other activities sometimes make this impossible even when you schedule our time accordingly for the volleyball season. We understand that sometimes there is emergency, in these cases, we simply ask that you inform the coach ahead of time so that the team can be prepared.

Initial Challenge

The vision has its challenges, the most significant of them being the absence of a home gym to run practice sessions out of everyday and to host our opponents during the regular season. It also eliminated our ability to run clinics on selective weekends.

We are looking to find other courts so we can have more practices and run clinics on selective weekends so we can grow our club. We believe that is a way to do just that.

Practices

Practices serve two functions:

First, they provide an opportunity for each students/athletes to hone their on-court skills.

Second, team concepts that are critical to having a successful season will be introduced and worked on throughout the season. As such, practices are extremely important to your children's volleyball development. Every effort should be made to attend practice. However, we understand that all of our students/athletes lead busy lives with competing obligations. We ask that if your daughters or sons cannot make practice on a certain day, please let us know in advance so we can plan accordingly.

Winter – Spring 2024/2025 Volleyball Handbook



Program Details

Our program includes the following:

- ❖ **Practices:** Teams will practice twice a week from September 2024 –April/May 2024.
Note:Practices do not occur when Gym is closed for school activities, holidays and weather emergency, such as Snow Days, Christmas Vacations,and/or Winter break. In addition, the courts may be closed for School Events.
- ❖ **Blackboard/Film Sessions:** In order to improve skill development and to re-enforce team concepts, games and scrimmages will be filmed on and as needed basis. We will take pictures to post in our website for background and/or not limited to congratulate our students/athletes. Teams' film sessions will be held to review videos and use them as additional training tools.
- ❖ **Skills Academy:** To improve their volleyball skills, each students/athletes can participate in an optional academy class for an additional cost. Classes are mostly held after-school with a limited number in the evenings and/or weekends. They can be scheduled at your convenience. Please check with the coach after any practice session for availability.
- ❖ Summer is also the time where the girls/boys have the option of attending various volleyball camps and/or clinics to give them the “extra edge”. We view the attendance of such programs as being critical to the improvement of our players.
- ❖ Since running the program, we now have the means to run a camp and/or clinic during the summer.
- ❖ **Gear:** Each **New** player will receive uniforms and warm ups sets. In addition, we have an on-line club store where players, parents, family members and/or fans can purchase additional gear such as jackets, t-shirts, practice shirts, sweatshirts etc...

Winter – Spring 2024/2025 Volleyball Handbook



Payment Information

- ❖ The cost for the 24 - 25 season:
 - **Regional Girls Teams** :\$3500–all ages.
 - **Regional Boys Teams**: \$4200 – all ages.
 - **National Teams**:\$8000 – all ages and teams Boys and/or Girls.
 - **Training Sessions**:\$1800 –all ages Boys and/or Girls.

Due to increase fees from GEVA; this fee does not include:

- The **USAV/GEVA membership fee** which is \$40-\$75. (For Development - Full membership) this season.
 - The **AAU membership** which is \$18-\$20. We'll let you know if and when your daughter/son will need the AAU membership.
- ❖ Fees are due according to the schedule listed below. We will also have other payments plans option if needed.

Payment Specifics

[Girls Regional Team Fee: \\$3500 up to 14u](#)

1. **1st Payment due:** \$583.33 – once acceptance our offer not later than October 15
2. **2nd Payment due:** – November 15, 2024.
3. **3rd Payment due:** – December 15, 2024.
4. **4th Payment due:** – January 15 , 2025.
5. **5th Payment due:** \$ – February 15 , 2025.
6. **6th Payment due:** – March 15 , 2025.

[Girls Regional Team Fee: \\$3500- 15u-18u](#)

1. **1st Payment due:** \$583.33 – once acceptance our offer not later than October 15
2. **2nd Payment due:** November 15 , 2024.
3. **3rd Payment due:** - December 15, 2024.
4. **4th Payment due:**– January 15 , 2025.
5. **5th Payment due:** – February 15 , 2025.
6. **6th Payment due::** – March 15 , 2025.

Winter – Spring 2024/2025 Volleyball Handbook



Boys Regional Team Fee: \$4200- All Ages

1. *1st Payment due: \$600 – once acceptance our offer no later than October 15, 2024.*
2. *2nd Payment due: – November 15 2024.*
3. *3rdPayment due: - December 15, 2024.*
4. *4thPayment due: – January 15 , 2025.*
5. *5th Payment due: – February 15, 2025.*
6. *6th Payment due: – March 15, 2025.*
7. *7th Payment due: – April 15 , 2025.*

Boys/Girls Training Session Fee: \$1800 - All Ages

1. *1st Payment due: \$300 – October 15 , 2024.*
2. *2nd Payment due: \$300 – November 15 , 2024.*
3. *3rdPayment due: \$300 - December 15 , 2024.*
4. *4thPayment due: \$300 – January 15 , 2025.*
5. *5th Payment due: \$300 – February 15 , 2025.*
6. *6th Payment due: \$300– March 15 , 2025.*

Boys & Girls National Teams Fee: \$8000 – All Ages

1. *1st Payment due: \$1000 – once acceptance our offer not later than October 15 , 2024.*
2. *2nd Payment due: - November 15 , 2024.*
3. *3rdPayment due: - December 15 , 2024.*
4. *4thPayment due: - January 15 , 2025.*
5. *5th Payment due: - February 15 , 2025.*
6. *6th Payment due: – March 15 , 2025.*
7. *7th Payment due: – April 15, 2025.*
8. *8th Payment due: – May 15, 2025.*

Winter – Spring 2024/2025 Volleyball Handbook



- *No athletes/players will be allowed on any team practice without the first payment after the first team practice. NO EXCEPTION.*
- *There will be an additional \$75 fee for any late payment. No Exception.*

General Points

- ❖ Fees are assessed based upon the total expenses for the teams. The teams cannot properly operate and meet its obligations if any team member defaults on the payment of dues.
- ❖ If a team member is delinquent in the payment of fees, the students/athletes will not be allowed to practice, take skills developments classes, performance training sessions or participate in league games until their payments are current.
- ❖ A student/ athlete who becomes injured or resigns during the course of the season, remains a member of the team and is obligated to pay team fees regardless of playing status.
- ❖ *Please note that all fees paid to the Blazerz Juniors Volleyball Club are non-refundable.*

Winter – Spring 2024/2025 Volleyball Handbook



Codes of Conduct

Parent's Code of Conduct: The majority of today's youth sports parents are a supportive and caring group. Unfortunately, however, there's an increasing number who can become disruptive. To minimize this problem, each parent will be required to sign a code of conduct at the beginning of the season.

Player Code of Conduct: The Blazerz Juniors Volleyball Club promotes sportsmanship above all else. All students/athletes who choose to play with the Blazerz Juniors Volleyball Club are asked to bring their best behavior to the court, play the best that they can and have the best time in any tournament with their fellow teammates, friends and new friends. Each player will be required to sign a code of conduct at the beginning of the season.

Coach Code of Conduct: The Blazerz Juniors Volleyball Club expects that its coaches will abide by the standards that have been established and will consistently treat players, opposing coaches, opposing players, parents etc. with the upmost respect. Each coach will also sign a code of conduct.

Winter – Spring 2024/2025 Volleyball Handbook



Team/Player/Coach Communication

The best source for current information is our website: www.blazerzjuniorsvbc.com. This is where we will post teams' specific information and special messages. It is updated regularly. Of course, you can always email our club at info@blazerzjuniorsvbc.com and someone will immediately get back to you. Finally, you can reach out to our club director at marie_c@blazerzjuniorsvbc.com.

Often the Club will send emails and text messages to provide important information. Email addresses and cell phone numbers will be collected during tryouts. If you are not receiving emails, it is your responsibility to check in with us and confirm that we have the right email on file.

As our coaches are often on the field, the best way to reach them is to speak with them before or after practice. If you need to reach them on a separate occasion, please let them know personally.

If any issue arises, the best option is for the students/athletes or parents to speak directly with the coach or a Program Director. However, if the conversation is following a game or practice, we ask that everyone respect a 24 hour rule as this allows emotions to be tempered. To reiterate – coaches have been instructed NOT to engage in parents discussions during this 24 hour period.

We also urge you also to speak with our Club director as she is your advocate and will help you navigate any situation. It is in your best interest to always keep this professional in the loop of any discussions/concerns/issues. Our Club director Marie J Calixte-Cranston is ultimately responsible for the success of the program and she is committed to ensuring that you have an amazing and positive experience at the Blazerz Juniors Volleyball Club. She can be reached at: marie_c@blazerzjuniorsvbc.com.

WE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE A SUCCESSFUL & AN ENJOYABLE SEASON!

Winter – Spring 2024/2025 Volleyball Handbook



THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED AND RETURNED

BLAZERZ JUNIORS VOLLEYBALL CLUB 2024 - 2025 SEASON

Players/Parents Participation Agreement

Blazerz Juniors Volleyball Club: _____ (enter Team/Level offer)

By signing this participation agreement, I certify that:

1. I have read the terms of the Blazerz Juniors Volleyball Club's offer and accepted the offer to become a member for the 2024/2025 Season.
2. I will abide by the policies requirements and I have made a full commitment to the Blazerz Juniors Volleyball Club.
3. I have accepted the commitment to pay the full cost for the entire season even if I (Player/Parent) decide not to continue playing at any point during the 2024/2025 season.
4. I have read the GEVA Recruiting and Commitment Policy.
5. I have read the GEVA Parents' Guide to Club Volleyball.
6. I have read the GEVA Spectators Code of Conduct.

Player's Name: _____
Print Sign Date

Parents/Guardians Name: _____
Print Sign Date