



2025
FORT WAYNE FALCONS
VOLLEYBALL
HANDBOOK

2025
FALCONS



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TEAM MISSION STATEMENT

FWFV exists to teach competitive volleyball while developing godly character and Christ-like sportsmanship.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in...

- **The Triune God**, who is the only true God and is three in one – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- **God the Father**, the Creator of all things, the Alpha and Omega, YHWH
- **Jesus Christ, the Son**, who is both God and man, born of a virgin, lived a sinless life and died on the cross for our sins. He was buried and rose again on the third day.
- **The Holy Spirit**, who is equal with the Father and the Son and is our comfort and guide.
- **The Church**, which is the spiritual unification of all believers. Through the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior, all believers are unified as members of His body, the church.
- **The Holy Bible**, both Old and New Testaments, which is the inerrant Word of God and our rule and guide.
- **The Salvation Message**, and that without faith in Jesus Christ, true repentance, and the forgiveness of sins, no one can be a true Christian.



COACHING PHILOSOPHY

As a competitive volleyball program, we will strive to develop our players' skills and abilities, training them with excellence. However, we believe that who our players become as people is the most important objective of our volleyball season - both on and off the court. Whether we are training fundamentals, discipline, work ethic, or communication, we coach with the heart and character of the player in mind. We will value and model how to stay positive, respectful, and considerate toward others - even our opponents - as a way to embody our love for Christ and others. An environment of joy, encouragement, and a commitment to excellence will be the fertile ground for a winning season.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- We are a competitive, training focused, girls volleyball team for homeschooled girls entering grades 3-12. Due to the competitive nature, every player is guaranteed training time, however, they are not guaranteed equal playing time.
- Following two days of tryout sessions, coaches will choose players based on attitude, athleticism, coachability, skill level, availability, and eligibility.
- Tryouts, team camp, & Alumni Night are mandatory.
- FWFV does make cuts. For those who make the team, they will receive a position offer following tryouts.
- FWFV plays both home and away matches, including some weekend tournaments.
- FWFV may offer PIT Crew (Players in Training) positions to girls in grades 3-7. PIT Crew practices will be during the week of camp and on Mondays and Thursdays for one hour during the month of August for a total of 10 sessions. PIT Crew players will receive a Falcons T-shirt. Players are asked to have knee pads and black athletic shorts.



YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY FOR FWFV IF:

1. **A participant must be a female** based upon that individual's biological sex at birth as determined by genetics and reproductive biology.
2. **School Eligibility.** You are a full-time student, taking a minimum of five classes, and passing all courses. You are also at least 50% homeschooled, defined as parent directed home education. Parent directed home education includes the following:
 - a. Dual-credit college courses where the college institution admits the student as a high school student.
 - b. Courses that are taught in the home/studio of the athlete's parent(s), grandparent(s), sibling (age 18 or older), legal guardian, or another homeschool parent or tutor, provided the instruction by a non-parent is done under the direction and supervision of the child's parent(s).
 - c. Courses that are taught at a central location (ex: homeschool support group co-op classes, University Model classes, etc.).
 - d. Correspondence/virtual/distance learning courses provided by a PRIVATE kindergarten through 12th grade school (Note: Correspondence/virtual/distance learning courses provided by a PUBLIC kindergarten through 12th grade school does not qualify as homeschooling, as the educational program is dictated by the local school district and under the State direction.)

*In performing the role of administrator of the homeschool, the parent is solely responsible for enforcing this rule.

3. Age & Grade Eligibility

- **PIT Crew**
Grades 3-7 (Note: Athletes in grades 6-7 are required to try out for the team to be eligible.)
Minimum age as of 08/31/25: 8 years old
Maximum age: You will NOT have turned 13 years old before 09/01/25
- **Junior High**
Grades 6-8
Minimum age as of 08/31/25: 11 years old
Maximum age: You will NOT have turned 15 years old before 09/01/25
- **Varsity**
Grades 9-12
Minimum age as of 08/31/25: 14 years old
Maximum age: You will NOT have turned 19 years old before 09/01/25
- Once you have registered with FWFV as being in 9th grade, you will be limited to four consecutive seasons of participation.



FEES AND COSTS

Tryout Fee

\$35 (nonrefundable) per player.
This will be paid by credit/debit card via SportsEngine, when you register for tryouts.

Season Fees

Varsity – \$450	Junior High B – \$275
Junior Varsity – \$375	Training Crew – \$225
Junior High A – \$325	PIT Crew – \$100

Season fees will be due following the close of fundraisers. You may choose to pay:

1. By credit/debit card through SportsEngine or
2. By check, mailed directly to the Treasurer (FWFV Treasurer, % Dan Raymer, P.O. Box 25701, Fort Wayne, IN 46825). *Checks will NOT be accepted in person and must be mailed. Cash is NOT accepted for Tryout or Season fees.*

Please Note: Season fees do not include potential tournament travel costs. The majority of tournaments do not require travel, however, in the case where travel becomes necessary, families may be asked to contribute.

Uniforms: Uniforms are provided by FWFV and returned by players at the end of the season.

Spirit Wear: Spirit Wear and Tournament T-Shirts are optional and are offered at an additional cost.

Financial Aid: We do not want finances to be a reason for not participating in the program. Please contact the Treasurer, Dan Raymer 502-216-4541, if you have financial questions.

PARENT REQUIREMENTS

1. Agree to & sign the Parent & Player Pledge
2. Demonstrate respect for authority and good sportsmanship towards coaches, referees, opposing teams, and their fans.
3. Volunteer Training on Alumni Night: line judging, score book, score table, & libero tracking - these work assignments are required throughout the season for all families.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Thursday, August 14, 2025
4. Accept work assignments throughout the season, including ALL home & away tournaments. The profits from home tournaments are essential to keeping the player fees low, and it takes cooperation and a lot of volunteer-hours to host an organized, successful tournament. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** Our Midwest tournament (MVC) will be held at PSM Fieldhouse on **October 2-4, 2025**. (Thursday-setup, Friday & Saturday-games/volunteering). Every family (from PIT Crew through Varsity) is required to help during the tournament. Parents, responsible siblings, grandparents, or friends may work the required time.



COMMUNICATION

- The SportsEngine website, messages, and chats are our primary means of communication. Download the SportsEngine app and allow notifications so that you do not miss important communication. Check SportsEngine daily, especially the day of a game.
- For unplanned or unexpected absences, players must communicate directly with their coach and team through the team chat via SportsEngine App.

COMPLAINT POLICY

- STEP 1** Pray and listen! Wait 24 hours before voicing your complaint. Games get highly emotional and waiting will help prevent emotions from inhibiting productive conversation.
- STEP 2** Go directly to the person with whom you have a concern, off court, but visible. Attempt to resolve the matter without involving other people. This means the player must go directly to the coach and/or player in question first, before involving others.
- STEP 3** If the issue is not resolved, and it is between players and/or parents, bring the complaint to the coach and Head Coach. If the complaint is between a player and her coach, involve the Head Coach and the Director of Volleyball. Always involve two members of the staff in this third step of conflict resolution.
- STEP 4** If the conflict remains unresolved, a meeting will be set up between all involved parties and the board representatives of the respective team. The board representatives will bring unresolved issues to the FWFV Board for action.

PLAYER DRESS CODE

- Small studs or posts in ears/nose are permitted, however no other jewelry or metal hair clips are allowed. This is for safety! (NFHS Rule 4-1-7) Additionally, taping jewelry is not permitted.
- No visible body or additional facial piercings or glitter.
- All hair must be pulled back and secured away from the face. No claw clips or similar items.
- Shorts need to have a minimum of a 3-inch inseam. No spandex shorts except under other shorts. No inappropriate fitting shorts or leggings. Shorts must be worn over leggings during any and all matches.
- Shirts: No V-neck, tight, ill-fitting, crop top, or tank tops.
- No visible undergarments – including bras
- Must wear appropriate bust support (supportive bra for athletics)
- No rolled-down waistbands
- Designate one pair of shoes as court shoes; wear other shoes to matches and practices and change upon arrival.
- Swimwear: Modest swimsuit with NO midriff showing
- If in doubt of the appropriateness of any apparel, please do not wear it.
- If clothing is deemed inappropriate, the coaching staff might provide alternative clothing for the player to wear. All decisions by the coaching staff regarding dress code are final.



PRACTICES & MATCHES

All players are expected to be at all scheduled practices on time. Tardiness to practice will result in a consequence.

- **PIT Crew Practices** are typically from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., arrival 12:45 p.m.
- **Junior High Practices** (not including camp)
 - August - October 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., arrival 1:45 p.m.
- **High School Practices** (not including camp)
 - August 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., arrival 12:45 p.m.
 - September - October 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., arrival 1:45 p.m.
- Players are expected to be at the gym 15 minutes in advance to help set up the nets and warm up. Practice begins promptly at start time. Players are expected to stay at the end of practice until all the nets and balls are put away. **Setting up beforehand and cleaning up after ourselves helps lower our cost for PSM Fieldhouse.**
- Tryouts, team camp, & Alumni Night are mandatory.
- DO NOT schedule classes, work, or other activities that will interfere with practice, as these are not excused absences.
- The schedule of matches is announced via the SportsEngine calendar and is subject to change.
- Any absences, other than illness, must be previously communicated to the coaching staff. A player is expected to notify the coach as soon as she knows she will miss practice for illness or otherwise.
- In the event of an injury, athletes are still expected to attend practices and matches.

Consequences for unexcused missed practices will be as follows:

Varsity and JV

- 1st unexcused missed practice - Player will not participate in the first rotation in the first set of the next official match.
- 2nd unexcused missed practice - Player will not participate in the first set in the next official match.
- 3rd unexcused missed practice and thereafter - Play will be limited until player is ready to fully participate (must be at games to take stats) or possible removal from FWFV.

Junior High

- 1st unexcused missed practice - free
- 2nd unexcused missed practice - Player will run 10 half court lines and complete 10 burpees.
- 3rd unexcused missed practice - Player will not participate in the first rotation in the first set of the next official match.
- 4th unexcused practice and thereafter - Play will be limited until player is ready to fully participate or possible removal from FWFV.



PARENT AND PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT & PLEDGE

First and foremost, I understand that the Fort Wayne Falcons Volleyball program is a faith based organization and I pledge to abide in action and conduct according to their leadership and beliefs.

Player Development

- I understand that participation in the Fort Wayne Falcon Volleyball program is voluntary and a privilege, not an entitlement.
- I promise to strive to develop my God-given gifts in character, academics, sportsmanship, and athletic skill.
- I understand that FWFV guarantees training time but does NOT guarantee equal playing time, especially at higher levels.
- I understand that I am always welcome to ask my coach questions regarding my ability and place on my team, including playing time questions. However, I am not allowed to directly ask questions about other players within the organization. I also acknowledge that questions regarding playing time or similar concerns should never occur during a match. During a tournament, all discussions should occur between matches.
- As a parent or player I understand that I am NOT the coach and will refrain from any and all sideline coaching during practices and games.

Honoring Others

- I will honor those in authority by accepting their decisions at all times without arguing, grumbling, or complaining (either verbally or through body language).
- I will honor my teammates by being helpful and giving encouragement.
- I will honor coaches, referees, fans, and opponents.
- I will encourage good sportsmanship by being a positive role model to all members of the organization.
- I will honor others with my attitude and actions. At times, that might mean I have to humble myself by placing other's needs or desires above my own.
- I recognize and appreciate the value, importance and contribution of support staff, such as volunteers, officials, line judges, scorekeepers, concession workers, etc. They are to be appreciated, not criticized or confronted... EVER. If I have a concern, I will follow the FWFV Complaint Policy.

Conduct

- I will refrain from the use of offensive, inappropriate and/or abusive language, gossip, or slander.
- I will refrain from behavior during practice or events that is distracting or dishonoring to God, my own team, myself or the Falcon program.
- I will keep my behavior on social media or other chats positive and/or constructive at all times and refrain from negative comments regarding other athletes, coaches, families or teams etc. Public disrespect will NOT be tolerated.
- I will participate in the positive direction of the team at all times, knowing that frustration and failure occurs and makes me stronger. I will grow while failing and will be a great teammate while succeeding and failing.
- I will submit to all team rules and policies.

Complaints

- I agree to follow the complaint policy outlined on the previous pages in the handbook.
- I understand that all player and parental concerns will be addressed in person or by phone and NEVER over text.



2025 FALCONS

FORT WAYNE FALCONS HOMESCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

PARENT AND PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT PLEDGE & HANDBOOK AGREEMENT 2025

By signing, I agree to the above pledge & handbook and understand that a violation of the above is grounds for disciplinary action that could lead to suspension or removal from the team without refund.

Player Signature _____ Date _____

Player Name Printed _____

As _____'s parent/guardian and family representative, I agree to the above pledge & handbook for myself, daughter, and family. I understand that a violation of the above is grounds for disciplinary action that could lead to suspension or removal from the team without refund.

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name Printed _____



This document must be signed and submitted at tryouts in order to be considered for a FWFV team. Please print an additional copy for your personal records and reference.