



NC Elite Volleyball Club Playing Time Policy

Playing time is always a sensitive issue in team sports. The purpose of NC Elite Volleyball Club's playing time policy is to document and communicate the club-wide guidelines in advance to ensure that those who commit to the Club understand what factors will be used to determine playing time over the course of the season. As well, our Club establishes a process whereby a player can raise concerns, if they believe the coach is not implementing the policy consistently on their respective team (see NC Elite Volleyball Club Conflict Resolution Process).

Whereas "recreational" level sports programs advocate "equal playing time", NC Elite Volleyball Club does not advocate equal playing time, rather "earned playing time." However, the Club does believe that all players should receive equal training opportunities at practice. In volleyball, there are four (4) types of games – scrimmages, pool-play, playoffs/medal-brackets, and regionals/qualifiers. All players will receive some playing time during scrimmages and pool play, at the discretion of the coach and based on performance and positive attitude. However, in playoffs/medal-brackets and playoffs or regionals/qualifiers, the factors below will be used to determine playing time:

1. Ability to execute during competition
2. Ability to perform specific skills needed or play specific position during competition
3. Performance in practice (including skills, attitude, and dedication)
4. Positive attitude/ attendance/ level of commitment to the team
5. Overall contribution, in whatever capacity, to the success of the team

Athletic propensity and skill set dictates what position a person plays. A player's performance in practice/scrimmages and ability to perform the required skills of the position dictate how and when she will be utilized in tournaments. Additionally, how a player adds to or distracts from the team's performance as compared to a teammate who plays the same position may also dictate playing time.

During a tournament (i.e. competition day), coaches are constantly adjusting and evaluating line-ups based on the above discussed parameters, which means that some players will receive more playing time than others. Players are expected to understand and accept their role as decided by the coach, concede that the collective performance of the collective team has priority over the individual player's desires for playing time and remain a positive contributor to team dynamics. While not permitted during competitions or on competition days, players may ask for feedback from coaches regarding playing time in discussion scheduled at a time independent of competition days and which is not disruptive to team practices, or at a mutually agreed upon date and time.

Under no circumstances is it permissible for a parent or player to approach a coach during competition or at a tournament site to discuss playing time. Players and parents are required to wait 48 hours after a tournament before initiating any type of communication with a coach or other member of NC Elite's Board of Directors, Leadership Team, Coaching Staff or General Staff regarding playing time grievances. If a player is concerned or unclear about her role on the team, she should initiate a meeting with her coach to discuss the matter either before or after practice, or at a mutually agreed upon date and time.