



# GCVC Player Commitment Agreement

Upon acceptance of an official team contract offer to GCVC, the Player and Player's Parent/Guardian agree to adhere to the Player Commitment Agreement as set forth.

Please understand that being invited to play for GCVC is a privilege and should be treated as such. The following guidelines have been established to protect GCVC, our coaches, and players.

## Attendance

1. Expectations: Players are expected to attend all team functions and commit to the team's training and competition schedule. All foreseeable scheduling conflicts must be discussed at the beginning of the season, preferably before committing to the team.
2. Excused vs. Unexcused Absences: It is the coach's discretion to excuse absences due to illness (excluding COVID or injury). GCVC's rule of thumb: if the player is contagious, the coach excuses the athlete from participation. If not excused, the athlete is expected to attend practice. The club Director, at her discretion, will address players who have excessive unexcused absences, which may impact their participation in competition.
  - a) Excused absences include but are not limited to: religious ceremonies, mandatory/graded school functions, college visits, funerals, family emergencies, contagious illnesses, and concussions.
  - b) Unexcused absences include but are not limited to: vacations, school dances, studying for finals/too much homework, and family celebrations.
  - c) Injured players are still expected to attend practice and local tournaments.
3. Fee for Short-Notice Unexcused Absences: The club Director, at her discretion, will charge a reasonable travel and lodging fee to players who notify the coach of an unexcused absence with less than ten (10) days' notice of the date of the absence. The fee will offset hotel, parking, and mileage costs for the substitute player. The fee will be due in full prior to the player's next scheduled competition.
4. End-of-Season Competition: End-of-season tournaments are mandatory. Teams compete in national qualifier tournaments with the intent to earn a bid to USAV Nationals.
  - a) All teams are required to attend USAV Nationals if they earn a bid.
  - b) 14U-17U Silver teams and 15U-17U Blue teams are required to attend AAU Nationals if they do not earn a bid to USAV Nationals.
  - c) Athletes with unexcused absences for USAV Nationals or AAU Nationals are not permitted to attend GCVC tryouts for the remainder of their amateur volleyball careers.



5. Multi-Sport Athletes: Multi-sport athletes are supported and encouraged by GCVC. However, this does not alter the athlete's responsibility to attend practices and tournaments, as is required of all athletes. Multi-sport athletes' schedules require focused attention to time management to achieve success in multiple sports. Multi-sport athletes will be placed on American- or Regional-level teams if the number of conflicts will interfere with the national level team's ability to achieve its intended goals for the season.

### Financial Responsibility

1. Expectations: Players who participate on a team are required to pay the same cost per player. Approximate cost per player varies according to age group and team level. Payment schedules are specified on the team page of the website.
2. Refunds: There are no refunds for a player who resigns, is removed, is ill, or injured and unable to fulfill their commitment to GCVC. There is ZERO flexibility in this policy.
3. Travel Expenses: Families of players are expected to meet the additional financial requirements of travel for tournament play.
  - a) See the 'Fee for Short-Notice Unexcused Absences' clause underneath the Attendance section for additional financial responsibilities that may arise due to unexcused absences relating to competition.
4. Payment Options: Players are required to sign up for an online payment plan through SportsEngine, or pay fees in full, up front.

### Communication

1. Updated and current contact information must be provided to coaching staff in case of an emergency and for communication purposes.
  - a. All families are required to have one (1) current email address for program communication. It is the family's responsibility to regularly monitor this one (1) email address once the contract is signed.
  - b. Text messages via sportsYou (or equivalent group messaging platform) on cell phones will also be used.

### General Player Expectations, Commitment to Excellence, and Accountability

1. Be punctual. Athletes are expected to be at the tournament court one hour prior to the start time of their first match.
2. Come prepared for practice. Wear the assigned practice shirts, bring all necessary gear, and be ready to begin 15 minutes prior to the start of practice.
3. Players will give 100% effort in all aspects of the game and most importantly during practice.
4. Learn from mistakes and move forward. Be fearless when trying new things.

5. Whether on or off the court, players are expected to be fully engaged in practices and competition.
6. Clean up following every game or practice. Leave the bench area, camp area, and facility cleaner than you found it.
7. Collect and count balls in carts after each practice.
8. If nets need to be adjusted, assist coaching staff to get it done in a safe and timely manner.
9. Stay positive and support each other. Negative comments or attitudes are not tolerated.

### Cell Phone Use and Social Media

1. Cell phones should be silenced and kept in player's backpacks at all times during practice time. Players must inform their head coaches before the start of practice if they are expecting an important phone call or message during practice.
2. Cell phone use at tournament events is determined by the individual GCVC teams' head coaches and will be kept to a minimum. Cell phones are NOT to be used during the team's pre-game warmups, team competition, and scheduled refereeing assignments (e.g. line judging, down-refeing, and/or scores table duties). Players should use their phones solely for communication purposes and not for entertainment and leisure activities (filming TikToks, etc.).
3. Players with individual or personal social media accounts on platforms including but not limited to Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube are expected to represent themselves and GCVC in a classy and appropriate manner. Inappropriate social media posts or other activity will be addressed accordingly by the Director and the player's head coach.
4. Player-led 'team' social media accounts are permitted and will be monitored by GCVC team head coaches and the Director. These accounts will be respectful and uphold the values and good reputation of GCVC. The Director will determine the consequences for inappropriate posting or other activity by these accounts on a case-by-case basis, depending on severity.

### Grievance Policy

Grievances, including but not limited to playing time, an athlete's role on the team, or conflict with coach and/or teammates are to be brought to the coaching staff in an appropriate manner. Coaches are willing to discuss any issue before or after practice and after 24 hours following the completion of a tournament.

### Grievance Resolution Steps

We encourage athletes to take the first step and initiate the grievance resolution process in the following order:

1. Player/Athlete may schedule a meeting with the coach if there are questions/concerns



2. Player/Athlete may schedule a meeting with the coach and include parents if there are still questions/concerns.
3. Player/Athlete and parents may schedule a meeting with the coach and club directors.

Our coaches are approachable, and issues are to be addressed in a face-to-face discussion as opposed to over email or text.

### Medical Conditions

1. It is the parent/guardian's obligation to inform their child's coach at GCVC if there are medical conditions that should be monitored during practice, tournaments, or strength training.
2. It is also the parent/guardian's obligation to inform coaches of any medical problems, injuries, or discomforts that would limit the player's ability to compete in any way.

### Adherence to GCVC Player Commitment Agreement

By accepting your contract offer, you are confirming that you have received, read, and agree to follow this agreement set forth by the Greater Columbus Volleyball Club. Failure to do so could result in dismissal of your child from the program.

I, (Parent/Guardian) have read the Player Commitment Agreement and understand my child's obligations, as well as my own. As a member of GCVC I agree to follow all policies, procedures, and guidelines if my child is a member of the team.

I, (Player) have read the Player Commitment Agreement and understand my obligations as a member of GCVC. I agree to follow said policies, procedures, and guidelines as long as I am a member of the team.

I pledge to uphold these rules and regulations set forth by GCVC.