



Player/Parent Handbook

Snake River Juniors Volleyball Club

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Snake River Juniors (SRJ) is a member of the Evergreen Region Volleyball Association (ERVA). A volunteer Board of Directors manages the club. This player/parent handbook is designed to educate you about our club, our coaching philosophy and how to be successful within SRJ.

Philosophy

SRJ Volleyball Club supports the idea that participation in any sport is good for the physical, mental, and social development of young people. Thus, we will not encourage our players to give up another sport to play volleyball. We feel strongly that it should be up to players and their parents to choose the sports and activities in which an individual should be involved, and we will not interfere with those choices. However, we do require a high level of commitment to the club and your team. Conflicts will, no doubt, occur for multi-sport/activity athletes, but we will stay flexible and help as much as possible to make your player's overall experience successful. We encourage the use of time management skills to schedule school, volleyball, and other activities. The SRJ Volleyball Club philosophy regarding player growth and development is simple; one must play to improve.

Mission Statement

Snake River Juniors Volleyball Club is committed to providing opportunities for young athletes at all levels of development to engage in quality, competitive athletic experiences. SRJ is dedicated to the idea that any athlete, regardless of size or skill level, who wants to participate in the USAV Junior Volleyball Program, should be given that opportunity. A competitive athletic experience can instill a good work ethic, enhance social development, contribute to mental and physical health, and teach values of personal responsibility, self-discipline, self-motivation, and teamwork. The mission of SRJ is to foster the growth and development of youth volleyball in and around the Lewis-Clark valley.

The goals of SRJ are to:

1. Introduce volleyball to youth to develop interest, enjoyment, and skills.
2. Provide technical, cognitive, and social training supplemental to school athletic programs.
3. Promote the advancement of highly skilled players who have the desire and potential to play volleyball at the collegiate level.

Board of Directors

The nominated and elected volunteer Board of Directors oversees all activities within SRJ. For the most current list of directors, please visit our website.

Pre-season

Information Sessions

Snake River Juniors hosts an informational night prior to club tryouts where parents can learn information about the club, try-out dates, and additional info for the upcoming season. The meeting dates, times, and location (whether virtual or in person) will be posted on our club website, Facebook, and other social media outlets.

Tryouts

Each year brings different players along with restrictions on the number of teams that Snake River Juniors Volleyball Club can support based on gym space and coaching availability. SRJ will hold open tryouts each year to select players for our U12-U18 teams. Our tryouts will comply with ERVA policies that include player pre-registration, tryout date guidelines, and tryout fees. To provide the most controlled environment possible, spectators are not allowed at tryouts.

Tryout Preparation:

- Pre-register for a tryout period membership.

- Go to the SRJ website at www.srjvolleyball.com and complete the tryout registration forms and submit club tryout fee online.
- Talk to us before or after tryouts if you have any questions. We value the opportunity to answer your questions.

Playing Up:

Younger players may try out for an older division. Players wishing to be considered for an older division will need to attend the tryout session for their age group as well as the tryout session for the older age group.

Following tryouts, it will be at the discretion of the lead tryout coach to determine if a player is able to play for an older team than their natural age group. Players encouraged to play up demonstrate:

- Superior skill level
- High “volleyball IQ”
- Physical and mental maturity

The Selection Process:

Teams will consist of a minimum of 9 and ideally no more than 12 athletes. We will have multiple coaches evaluating players during our tryouts. Returning SRJ players will be expected to tryout and will be evaluated on the same scale as all tryout participants. Selection will be based upon the following criteria:

- A player’s performance during the tryout
 - skill level, effort, competitiveness and interaction with other athletes and coaches
- A player’s ability to receive feedback for improvement – “coach-ability”
- Being in good standing with the SRJ Volleyball Club and USA Volleyball
- Scholarship applicants and children of board members and coaches are treated no differently than other players.

Notification:

Teams will be announced by tryout number 24 to 48 hours after tryouts & make up tryouts have been completed. Once the player receives the official Offer & Acceptance form, they have 72 hours to accept or decline the team being offered.

Offer & Acceptance:

Acknowledgement Date - Once an official offer has been made to the player, the club must leave the offer on the table for 72 hours following the Offer Date and Time listed. The player may accept the written agreement before the 72-hour period has expired if they so choose. The purpose for the Acceptance Window is to allow players to leave the club’s gym without the pressure of losing their offer. To accept this offer, the player and their guardian will sign a letter of intent and make their first payment for club fees. This signifies commitment to the club for one season. A player accepting SRJ’s offer for team position shall notify any alternate club coach, club representative, or club director they have officially joined SRJ. It is unethical to attend another club’s tryout or discuss other opportunities once you have fully executed this agreement.

Prior to the Tryout/Offer Start Date, a club (all representatives for a club) are prohibited from presenting / accepting any written offer, and/or accepting any payment for any club dues associated with USAV membership for the upcoming season.

Commitment Meetings:

Location and times will be posted on the club website and Facebook page. We have several tasks that need to be completed during this meeting as listed below.

- Complete any additional forms required by USAV if not previously submitted electronically

- USAV Offer and Acceptance, USAV Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct Form, Photography-Video Release Form
- Complete any forms required by club registration:
- Acceptance of SRJ Handbook Form, Waiver and Release of Liability Form Team Sign-In Sheet, Financial Agreement
- Payment of full team fee or first deposit.
- Sizing of player equipment
- Meeting with your team and head coach (when possible)

Movement between Rosters:

Occasionally we might move an athlete from one team to another as needed to complete a roster and as players accept or decline the Offer & Acceptance letter. We will not move an athlete from or to another team until we have discussed the move with the head coach, athlete, and the parents.

Multi-Sport Athletes:

SRJ Volleyball Club does their best to accommodate athletes who choose to play additional sports or participate in additional activities. These accommodations do not go without appropriate repercussions. We encourage players to communicate early and often with their head coach regarding missing practices or tournaments. We do not change practice times, tournaments, or team fees due to conflicts with athletes participating in additional activities. Consequences of missing practices or tournaments will be addressed case by case.

Scorekeeper Clinic

Every player, coach, and chaperone are required to complete a scorekeeping course through either USAV Academy online (free), or through a live / in-person clinic. SRJ encourages all players to complete their score-keeper course online at their convenience, but the course must be completed at least one week prior to their first tournament. Players will not be put on a roster until they have attended a scorekeeper clinic.

In-season

Practice

Team practices are usually 2 nights a week and 2 hours in length. Additional practices may be scheduled in preparation for major tournaments. There are times when our practice schedule will change based on school events and gym availability. The club will make every attempt to reschedule gym time during that week rather than losing a practice. **It is important to remember that school activities and events will always take precedence over SRJ practices else when it comes to scheduling gym time.** Open gyms may be offered occasionally prior to regular practices.

Standards of Conduct

All players will sign a code of conduct form as part of their membership with USA Volleyball. There is a lot more expected of our players than just their volleyball skills. Players are expected to participate in all practices and tournaments as scheduled. Failure to do so may result in less playing time. It is the player's responsibility to notify their coach if they cannot attend a practice or tournament. The following standards must be observed for one to continue as an active member of SRJ Volleyball Club; **violation of these standards can result in dismissal from SRJ, including future seasons:**

1. Alcohol and drugs including marijuana are prohibited.
2. Smoking/Vaping is prohibited.
3. Bullying or other player/coach harassment is prohibited
4. As a representative of SRJ Volleyball Club player's actions and behavior should always be such as to reflect positively on the player, their team, and SRJ Volleyball Club.

Tournaments

Most tournaments that SRJ teams enter take one day, either a Saturday or a Sunday. The typical one-day tournament schedule starts at 8:00 AM with pool play consisting of three or four matches followed by bracket play in the afternoon. A few tournaments involve two days of pool play, followed by single elimination bracket play. Elite teams attending qualifier events will be notified of dates of travel and the number of tournament dates as they are confirmed/scheduled.

Officiating:

All USAV tournaments are at least partially self-officiated. Officiating at tournaments is the shared responsibility of the entire team, including coaches. All players are required to help with the line judging, scorekeeping, score flipping, and down officiating. Players must make arrangements with their coach in the practices prior to the tournament if they must leave early or will be gone for any time during the upcoming tournament. Failure to communicate this information may result in disciplinary action including reduced play time and potential dismissal from a team.

Team Area & Cooler:

Upon arrival, the team will identify a team area where the girls can leave their bags and hang out between playing and officiating. The area may be a room, table, or simply a spot in a hallway. Either way, the team area represents our club and should always be kept neat and organized. Most girls will bring a blanket and/or pillow, homework, a book, headphones, or other items to help pass the time between matches. Remember, the team area is not secure, and valuables should be left at your own risk. Also, be sure to properly dispose of any trash and leave the area as we found it when the tournament is over. All players must check in with their coach or chaperone prior to leaving a tournament site to ensure their responsibilities are covered.

Most tournaments do not offer concessions. SRJ Volleyball teams may organize a team cooler with items assigned for each player to bring to that tournament. The food will be kept in the team area, and everyone associated with the team will be welcome to use the team cooler.

Post-Season Play:

Teams may attend tournaments beyond the regular season schedule based upon consensus of parents and players. The actual costs attributed to a more extensive season would then be divided among those involved and would be in addition to regular club dues.

Snake River Classic Tournament

SRJ typically hosts the Snake River Classic Tournament in March or April each year. This tournament helps support the club and offers opportunities for friends and family to watch their athletes play locally. Families have two responsibilities for this tournament:

1. Players and families are expected to help set up for the tournament.
2. SRJ teams must stay to the end of the tournament day. After their last match, our teams will assist where needed with officiating for out-of-town teams and will also help clean up.
3. Coaches and/or Chaperones will notify each team of their set-up, officiating, and clean-up duties.

Travel

SRJ travel policy places the responsibility of travel to and from tournaments, and the supervision of athletes on the players' parents. Parents are responsible for all costs for travel and meals for themselves as well as their player. Parents may choose to have their athletes car-pool with other families; however, this is to be coordinated between parents alone, the board of directors will not coordinate or oversee these agreements.

Finances

Team Fees

Team fees vary within the club and compare to other clubs based on team level and the tournament schedule for that team.

Your player's team fee includes:

- Admin Fees – covers registration for staff, equipment, storage, post office box, first aid kits, website, tax preparation, membership fees and background checks for board members/coaches, board insurance, etc.
- Coaching Fee – covers tournament pay/stipends for head and assistant coaches
- Practice Time – covers hourly pay of coaches and assistant coaches
- Gym Fees – covers costs for hourly gym rentals associated with practices
- Tournaments- entry fees and gym rentals/janitorial for home tournament
- Registration Fees- team fees, region fees,
- Space rental- room rental for information night, commitment night, tournament sign-up day
- Coaches Clinic- covers clinic for coaches

Your player's team fee does not include the following expenses:

- USAV membership for players
- Apparel or accessories such as jersey, spandex, kneepads, shoes, or socks
- Travel expenses- food, lodging, mileage, or airfare.

Supplemental Insurance Coverage

As part of their individual membership fees, all players are covered by a supplemental insurance policy that is carried by USA Volleyball. This is a liability policy that covers all club activities and injuries that may occur during an event. An event can be either practice or a tournament. The policy also insures players against any loss that may be incurred while traveling to or from an event. Please note that this is a supplemental policy and all SRJ's participants are required by USA Volleyball to carry individual health insurance to participate.

Billing and Payment Policies:

- Responsible Party - The parent or guardian who signs the participation agreement and the USAV Letter of Intent is liable for all fees, dues, and charges for goods and services incurred by the participant. By signing the agreement, the responsible party accepts liability and agrees to be bound by the terms of the agreement.
- Refunds will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - Note: Refunds will not be issued for an athlete missing a tournament or practice as a result of athlete scheduling conflicts.
- Payments – Accounts may be paid by credit card, check, money order or certified funds. If paying by check, money order or cash, payment must be made **in full** at commitment night. *Checks should be made out to Snake River Juniors Volleyball Club with the players name in the memo line.*

Payment Schedule

Parents may make three payments of club fees if paying by credit card only. If paying by check, we ask that season fees are paid in full at commitment night. The schedule of payments is set up through SportsEngine and is as follows:

- The first payment of the club fee is due and collected at commitment night held in November.
- The second payment of the club fee is due by January 15th.
- The third and final payment of club fees must be paid by February 15th.

Failure to maintain payment schedule will result in suspension of practice and playing time for the player until payments are made current and received by treasurer.

Scholarships

- Scholarships are awarded to a select number of players and are determined on case-by-case basis.
- Requests for scholarships must be submitted to the board via email before the player's try-out date.
- Scholarship awards will be sent to the parent or guardian with the player's offer email.
- Scholarship recipients are expected to help at all home tournaments and fundraising events.

General Information

Website

Our club website (www.srjvolleyball.com) has a lot of information and resources. Important club information will always be posted on the website and contact information is listed for the various board members.

Facebook

The club has an official Facebook page "Snake River Juniors Volleyball" that athletes and their parents can "like" or "follow" for information and updates on team related matters, photos, area volleyball information and other pertinent information.

Club Communications

- The primary way that you will receive communication from the club director will be through email.
- If a last-minute change occurs with a practice or with a tournament, we will try to communicate to parents directly via Sports Engine chat group, text, or email (as determined by coach and chaperone).
- We also recommend following up any important verbal notifications with an email as a confirmation and reminder.
- All communications between a coach or other adult and an athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. The content and intent of all electronic communications must adhere to the USA Volleyball Code of Conduct regarding athlete protection.

Grievance Policies & Procedures

If you as a parent, or your athlete as a participant on a SRJ team, have concerns about Snake River Juniors Volleyball policies or actions here are the procedures to follow:

- The athlete should talk to the coach about the matter.
 - This encourages players to become their own advocate, setting them up for success in similar conversations with coaches at the high school and collegiate levels.
 - It is understood that younger ages may need the parent to be the first contact with the coach or at least be standing present with their player while the player airs their grievance.
- The parent should talk to the coach.
- The parent should talk to the Club Director.
- The parent may request, in writing, that the SRJ board review the matter. The board may, at its sole discretion, review or refuse to review the matter.

For any additional questions, please contact the board by emailing: snakeriverjuniors@gmail.com