



## Refund Policy

Payment of player fees are non-refundable except in the case of an injury that occurs at a USAV sanctioned practice or tournament. The amount to be refunded will be determined by the club director based on the number of tournaments already completed. Parents will be required to request a refund in writing and provide a statement from their physician.

## Playing Time

Virginia United advocates a competitive playing time policy. Players will receive equal training opportunities at practice. Generally, all players will receive some playing time during pool play. This does not apply to playoffs and matches outside of pool play. To determine playing time, players are evaluated on:

1. Athletic ability and improvement of skill level
2. Performance in practice and games
3. Ability to execute skills in competition
4. Attendance and level of commitment to the team

During a tournament, coaches are constantly adjusting and evaluating line-ups, which means that some players will receive more court time than others. Players are expected to understand and accept their role as defined by the coach, and concede that the collective performance of the team unit has priority.

Under no circumstances is it permissible for a parent to approach a coach during competition or at a tournament site to discuss playing time. 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.

## Team Practices

- Practice facility locations for each team can be found on our website.
- All practices are open for anyone to observe. Parents are asked to just observe at practices. Coaching suggestions made from spectators will not be welcome. Virginia United coaches have authority to ask anyone to leave who is disruptive to the progress of the practice session.
- The practice schedule can differ due to school gym conflicts and team schedules. Coaches will send teams a practice calendar but you should **ALWAYS** check your email before going to practice in case of any last minute changes.
- All regular season team practices will conclude by mid-May.

## Team Officiating

Officiating is the shared responsibility of the entire team. All athletes are required to help with line judging, score keeping, libero tracking, score flipping, and R1/R2 officiating. All the athletes who have an officiating assignment may not leave a tournament before the assignment is

completed. Coaches will provide further information regarding scorekeeper and officiating online clinics

## **Parents Code of Conduct**

The influence, both good and bad, that a parent can have on their child's introduction to or continuation in sports is often misunderstood or underestimated. Your valuable contribution to your athlete is appreciated by Virginia United.

- Remember that where we practice and play is like your child's classroom. Please respect the classroom.
- Make only positive encouraging comments to or about players on BOTH teams.
- Remember that making mistakes is part of the learning process – don't criticize.
- Discuss your concerns away from the players and away from your child.
- Show respect for the officials, coaching staff, parents, and players.
- Control your emotions.
- Get interested in your child's sport. Ignorance is not bliss for those around you. Learn the rules of the game.
- Don't coach from the sidelines - don't coach at all. Simply reiterate what you may have heard your child's coach say at practice.
- Get your child to games and practices on time.
- Don't allow your child to talk negatively about a teammate, a coach or an official – stick with the facts, not the emotion.
- Don't proliferate your child's negative behavior when they are discouraged. Help them realize the positive.

## **Grievance Procedure**

Knowing when to communicate and how to communicate with your athlete's coach is a concern for almost every parent at some time during the season. Most often the concern is how to inquire about issues surrounding playing time.

Athletes should be encouraged to talk to the coach when a problem arises (i.e. regarding playing time, position or unclear expectations in practice or competition). The appropriate manner for the athlete to approach the coach is to ask what she, the athlete, needs to do in order to receive more opportunities to play or to accomplish a goal. Parents can best help their athlete by guiding them through this process and supporting communication with the coach. Athletes should be the one to approach a coach regarding "coaching decisions", not the parents. Coaching decisions include, among other things: practice organization, playing time, positions, substitutions, etc.

The amount an athlete is on the court is the result of a complex determination. This includes in that coach's opinion, the athlete's ability, the athlete's potential, the team's needs at the moment, and the team's needs in the future. The coach will not be required to defend his/her thought process or conclusions in these determinations. It should be expected, however, that the coach be able to relay information to the athlete to explain the athlete's current role on the team and what the athlete needs to improve upon to resolve the concern.

### **The athlete and parents *SHOULD*:**

1. Approach the coach to ask for a meeting time to be set. (Consider calling the coach on the phone to set a meeting time)

2. Expect meetings to be at a location other than a tournament.
3. Expect that the meeting should be between the coaches of the team and the player.
4. If the concern remains unresolved, approach the coach to ask for a meeting time to be set. This meeting should be between the athlete, the coaches, and the parents.
5. If the concern still remains unresolved, the parent should contact the Director for intervention.

**The parent or athlete *SHOULD NOT*:**

1. Confront a coach during a practice or during tournaments.
2. Expect meetings to be set during practice or tournament participation.
3. Attempt to “compare” or evaluate another athlete.
4. Use profanity towards the coach.
5. Harass or threaten the coach.
6. Discuss their concerns with any other parents or players until a resolution has been reached with the coach.

**General Behavior Policy**

Virginia United will not tolerate hostile, aggressive confrontations by a parent towards an official, a director, a coach, an athlete, or another parent. Violation of this policy may result in the athlete being dismissed from the club. In such cases, no refunds will be issued.

It is inappropriate for an athlete or a parent to involve other Virginia United members or third parties about a problem the athlete or parent is having with a Virginia United coach, objections to coaching decisions, or disagreements with an administrative decision.

Any member who, as a third party, hears remarks or stories being told about Virginia United, its employees or its policies that cause the member to be concerned, is encouraged to call the Director immediately to determine the facts, or to alert the club administration to a situation it may be unaware of.

**Memorandum of Understanding**

This writing recognizes that Participant and Parent have been informed and acknowledged that all Parents and Participants in Virginia United Volleyball Club, have received and understand the Virginia United Volleyball Club, Player and Parent Handbook.

It is also understood that all Participants are responsible for payment of all fees and expenses incurred during the season.

I understand that this Memorandum of Understanding must be signed and returned before I can participate in Virginia United practices or tournaments.

I also understand that the failure to pay in full all fees and expenses due to Virginia United may result in loss of practice time and tournament play.

Athlete Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Athlete Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_