

Houston Homeschool Athletics Parent/Player Handbook

Introduction

Houston Homeschool Athletics (HHA) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization formed to provide amateur competitive sports for homeschooled children, ages 8 to 18. HHA will provide, under Christian leadership and guidelines, competition with teams from other types of programs--homeschool, private school, and public school. HHA's mission is to compete in amateur sports at the highest level and be a witness for our Lord Jesus Christ. We are a parent run, family oriented organization that wants to encourage and develop all kids, of all levels, not only in their athletic endeavors, but in their overall development as young men and women.

HHA Volleyball is committed to compete in amateur sports at the highest level and to be a witness for our Lord Jesus Christ. The qualities that we will purpose to instill are: humility, responsibility, integrity, respect for authority/ God, and kindness.

Eligibility

To play for Houston Homeschool Athletics, you agree that your athlete's education is parent-directed (**not attending a private or a public school**) and you meet NCHC Eligibility Guidelines. The parents or legal guardian (pre-approved by the NCHC) shall be directly involved in the student's education, fulfilling the role of headmaster by **(a)** Selecting the curriculum. **(b)** Selecting and/or approving course materials and study schedules. **(c)** Selecting tutors, co-op classes, teachers, dual enrollment options, and/or other educational resources.

Team Assignment

- Players will receive an acceptance email for their assigned team.

- Teams will be determined upon the player's age, skill, and maturity level.
- Teams will consist of a minimum of 9 and no more than 11 athletes.
- Occasionally we will move an athlete from one team to another as needed to complete a roster. This will be discussed with the athlete and the parent. *(usually to simply fill a temporary need due to injury, illness, or scheduling conflicts)*
- Players are expected to be committed to their HHA team for the season as defined whether that season ends in October or goes through the end of the season.

Practice

- HHA volleyball teams practice 2X per week.
- Team practices are 2 hours in length. **Arrive 15 minutes early!**

PRACTICE IS IMPORTANT: practice is to teach both volleyball knowledge and skills, and to grow both players and teams.

- If a player must miss a practice, a telephone call or text (not email) to their head coach is expected at least 4 hours before practice.
- Players with fever or stomach flu (diarrhea and/or vomiting) within 24 hours of practice should not come to practice.
- Advanced notice is expected if the missed practice is due to vacation, family/school function or another event scheduled in advance.
- *Missing practice may result in loss of playtime*
- Players must come to practice even if it is only a partial practice.
- Injured athletes, who can, are expected to attend practice to support their team and be available to help where they can, even if they cannot physically participate in practice.

Player's Practice Responsibility:

- No jewelry allowed at practice OR games. . Please leave your jewelry

at home.

- All players must wear the assigned practice shirt at all practices. No exceptions. EACH practice day has a different color shirt.
- Shorts must have 3" inseam. Spandex may be worn under shorts – but shorts with a 3" inseam must be worn over the spandex.
- Wear knee pads, socks, and good athletic shoes. Wear ankle braces, if necessary.
- Long Hair should be worn up and away from the face.
- Bring plenty of water to practice
- **NO Cell Phone during practice**

Parents During Practice:

- Parents are only to observe practice.
- Parents may not coach or offer instruction to their daughter or another team member at any time during practice or pre-game warm-up.
- Parents are not permitted on the court, unless requested by the coaching staff
- Parents must monitor siblings.

Playing Time

Playing time, for many players and parents, is a central concern that can distract from our focus on the team's success and can often create divisions within the team.

At HHA Volleyball we are focused on player growth with a **"team first"** mindset. This means that our goal is to grow players without sacrificing the success of the team. Our goal will always be to play all players as much as possible, however, playtime will not be guaranteed.

Players are encouraged to ask - "What could I do to improve?"

All playing time is decided by the coaches and is not negotiable.

Game Day

- Make sure you know the location of the game and your child has a ride
- Be ready to assist if needed during the game

- Arrive one hour before game time (plan for 15 minutes earlier)
- Players should be fully dressed for the game.
- **No cell phones during warm up or the game - coach will keep if out**

BE AWARE: Typically there are entrance fees. (Between \$ 4 - \$6)

Tournaments

- Tournament schedules do not typically come out earlier than a few days before the tournament.
- *Expect to play starting at 8am.*
- *Make accommodations early! Plan accordingly*
- Tournaments consist of three or four matches followed by bracket play in the afternoon.
- Tournaments are an important part of the season - many games are played during them.. Check your calendars now. We need every player.
- 2 DAY tournaments involve one day of pool play, followed the next day by bracket play.

Parent Guidelines:

- SLEEP, EAT, HYDRATE before a tournament.
- Parents are responsible for driving players to the game or making arrangements.
- STAY tuned! FOR entrance fees, accommodations, and rules for the gyms. And reserve a room as soon as possible.

Player Rules:

- ANY game that a player is coming late or leaving early communicate with the coach as soon as possible.
- BE completely dressed: shoes, sleeves and any injury preparation needed before the game OR tournament begins.
- Arguing with the officials, other teammates, or coaches will not be tolerated.
- All athletes are required to stay at the game/ tournament until the team has been released by one of the coaches. We play as a team, and we will leave the event as a team.

Officiating:

- All parents/players are expected to contribute in some way.

Helping with the line judging, scorekeeping, score flipping, stat taking, etc. is an ongoing need. PLEASE BE available.

- The team mom may rotate officiating responsibilities. If you are willing and need to learn, sit with someone who knows!

Travel

- HHA's travel policy places the responsibility of most aspects of travel to games/tournaments and supervision of athletes on their parents.
- Parents are responsible for all costs for travel and meals for themselves as well as their players.

Driving Policies:

- As a general rule, players who are 17 years or older may drive to games/ tournaments in the Houston area.
- At no time may a player ride with a coach of the opposite sex unless traveling with the team or a portion of the team and with another adult.

Hotel Policies:

- Players must be with a parent or assigned guardian
- TEAM hotel is suggested, but if family or other accommodations are desired, please let the coach know and be prompt to come to team events. .
- All players are expected to be in their rooms and in bed at curfew. Unless a coach has designated a specific time, the default curfew will be 10:00 pm.
- No boys with girls in a hotel room , who are not relatives, are allowed in your hotel room at any point, for any reason.
- Athletes may not leave the hotel area at any time without permission from their parents or the parent that they are staying with. Athletes should never be alone. Use the **buddy system**.

Team Fees Cover:

- Admin Fee – covers registration for staff, equipment, website, tax preparation, etc.
- Tournament Fees – covers costs to enter teams into tournament play.

- Gym Fees – covers costs for practice gyms.

In addition to the regular fees: You must commit to raising \$100 or more to help with costs OR you will be required to pay the \$100 fee.

Costs YOU Must Cover:

- Uniform – covers jerseys and warm-ups for players. *Additional Cost*
- Any travel expenses or meals for players.
- State snack bags for players.
- Apparel or accessories such as shorts, warm-up shirts, knee pads, shoes, socks or gym bags/backpacks.

Billing and Payment Policies:

- Responsible Party - The parent or guardian who signs the participation agreement and the HHA
- The agreements for all sibling participants, regardless of which parent or guardian signs as the responsible party, will be treated as one account for the purposes of this liability.
- Late Fees or Returned Item Fees - A **\$30.00 late fee** will be assessed to any account if the payment is not received within 10 days of the stated due date. For a returned fee a cashier's check or money order will be required for all further payments.
- Refunds – If the participant becomes severely injured while playing or practicing with the organization that she cannot practice or compete for more than 2 months, then a refund will be given. The responsible party will still be required to pay the deposit and the uniform fee.
- Refunds will not be given if the parent/ player is asked to leave HHA or decides to discontinue.

Payments:

- Accounts may be paid by credit card on the website but may be paid by cash, check, money order or certified funds if paid in person.
- Checks should be made out to Houston Homeschool Athletics. Please write the player's name in the memo line on any checks.
- Cash should **never** be mailed.
- Payments should be mailed to:
Houston Homeschool Athletics Volleyball

1831 S. Byrd Ave. Shepherd, TX 77371

Player fees due by September 1:

(If not paid, player will not be able play until paid)

- There is a **\$120 non-refundable registration fee** that will go towards team fees if you play with HHA.
- \$100 Fundraising fee
- **Uniform Fee \$120**
- 2 Practice shirts are included

18u: 18u JV and Varsity fees \$590

14u: 14u Girls \$490

Junior High Boys \$395

12u: Mini Mavs fees \$395 and will include two practice shirts.

Practice Player: \$350 for the season. Practice players are not required to purchase a uniform but may do so if desired.

Delinquent Payments – A player who is delinquent with payments will not be placed on the roster until the fees are paid. If there is a financial hardship, contact the coach.

Parents to Coach Communication

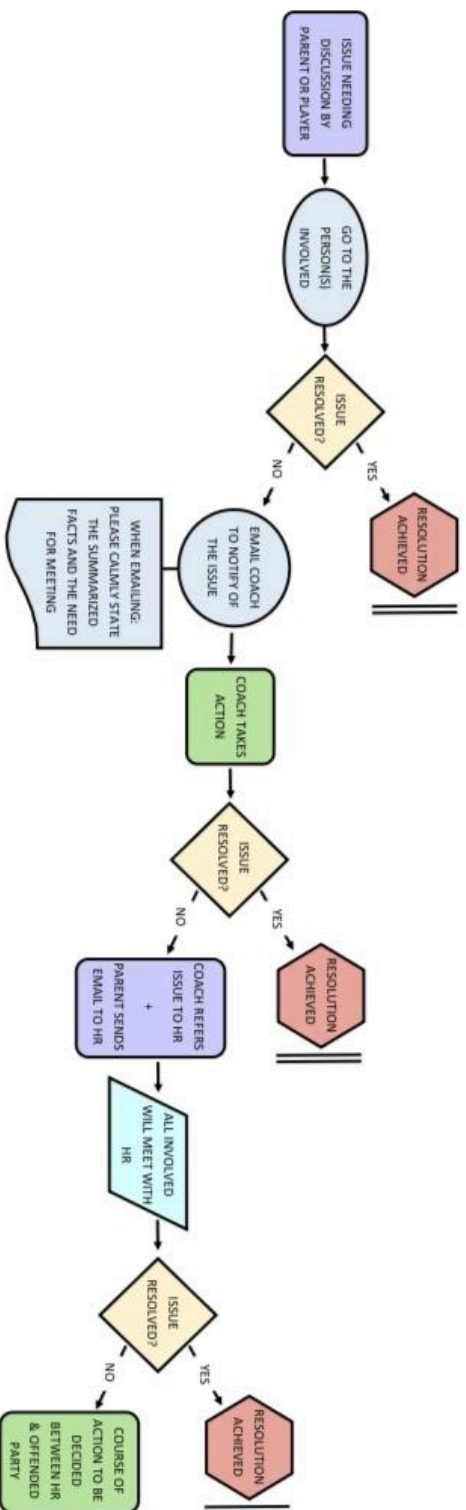
- Communicate your **positive experiences** with the coach or the team. If we are doing things right then reinforce that by letting us know.
- Any information about your player's physical or emotional health that is pertinent to her playing on the team please communicate.
- Any allergies or medication needs are important to discuss.

- A quick heads up that your player is struggling to talk with the coaches. This is appropriate if it is only a head's up and not a detailed email.
- **NOTHING about coaching technique, tactics, systems, etc.**

Coaches need to be informed of:

- Any issues involving use of drugs, alcohol, weapons, or sexual improprieties should be brought up with the head coach immediately.
- If players are using inappropriate language , teasing about sexual orientation, explicit content or sharing pornography with other players.

STEPS FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION



Matthew 18:15 - 17

v.15 If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

v.16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that "by the mouths of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

v.17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses...

ROMANS 12:18 Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

1 Peter 4:8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Proverbs 19:11 The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, and his glory is to overlook an offense.

ASK YOURSELF: CAN I OVERLOOK THIS? Will this matter in week, a month, a year, 5 years?

Players handling Conflict:

- Players may approach their coach at ANY time to calmly discuss any topic. Players do NOT have to wait 24 hours. *Only parents must wait 24 hours.*
- *Players must realize that it is not mandatory to be close friends with everyone, but it is mandatory to treat each teammate with respect.*
- If a player is the one who is the one who has unresolved conflict that player must be present at the in person meetings set to resolve the conflict.
- Players may not discuss an issue with other players. He or she must also go to the person and follow the steps. If a player talks directly to the person - a player then would follow up with contacting the coach. If at that point the conflict is unresolved it would move to HR.

Parents handling Conflict:

- It is so important that parents do not discuss their personal feelings and

relay to their children any disparaging remarks about other players, parents, coaches or leadership.

- If your athlete is in a conflict, please do not talk for your player. Allow them to work through the steps as much as possible. It's a life skill.
- Players 14 years of age and older must be the primary spokesperson in the midst of their conflict.
- Parents should do their best to be an example of letting issues go and focusing on the majors.
- It is inappropriate and undesirable for an athlete or a parent to approach other HHA parents and athletes to complain about a problem the athlete or parent has with a HHA coach, about objections to coaching decisions, or about disagreement with an administrative decision.
- We strongly encourage any member to abstain from listening to another person or discussing any person or situation that you are not a part of. If someone is complaining, we ask that you would request the person to discuss the matter with someone who is able to address the situation.. Refuse to listen further.

Violation of handling conflict according to the above policy may result in the athlete/ family being dismissed from Houston Homeschool Athletics.

Disciplinary Issues: (these will not fall under conflict resolution)

- An athlete found in breach of the Code of Conduct (use of drugs/alcohol or possession of weapons or sexual misconduct) will be sent home immediately at the expense of the parent or guardian.
- An athlete who damages any property at a hotel or lodging will be personally responsible for damages.
- If a parent, player, or coach is aggressive - verbally or physically towards a coach, player, parent, or referee, immediate action will be taken which may include dismissal from the organization.
- Players engaged in discussing or showing other players inappropriate content.
- Boys being attracted to boys , inappropriately touching or making fun of someone as if they are the opposite gender will not be tolerated.

Sexual or Physical Abuse Policy

HHA recognizes that all forms of sexual abuse, assault or harassment with athletes are illegal and unethical, even when an athlete invites or consents to such behavior or involvement.

Sexual abuse and harassment is defined as, but not limited to, repeated comments, gestures or physical contacts of a sexual nature. Including phones - Calls, texts or online activity. This includes demanding sexual favors in exchange for promotions, unwelcome touching of any kind, unwanted letters, telephone calls, texts or email of a personal nature, unwarranted inquiries about personal life or sexual habits, repeated jokes with sexual content, and sexual comments about a person's appearance or body.

HHA will not tolerate sexual or physical abuse of any of its staff or of participants. HHA regards the safety of the young athletes entrusted to our care and instruction as our highest priority. We do not tolerate physical behavior that compromises that priority.

Reporting Complaints

If you see or experience behaviors by HHA coaches, parents or players that you believe to be inappropriate, **report it immediately** to the coach and the coach will make the decision if it needs to go to the level of HR (Tami White) Facts will be written down and a file will be started. All complaints will be investigated. Any employee, player, parent or volunteer found to be in violation of the sexual and physical abuse policy will be subject to discipline, which may include dismissal.

COMMUNICATION:

Human Resource (HR) Tami White: 713-562-7509

Email Address: txwhitetami@gmail.com

- Must follow the conflict resolution steps

Athletic Director : Lorie Davis (385) 225 - 2420

- Team moms are in contact with Lorie regarding schedules, games,

Email Address: HoustonHomeschool AthleticsVB@gmail.com

Website <http://houstonhomeschoolathletics.com>

FACEBOOK page: www.facebook.com/houstonhomeschoolathletics

SOCIAL MEDIA or TEAM threads: No derogatory or negative remarks about other players, parents or coaches will be tolerated. There will be disciplinary action.

Do not post anything that you would not feel comfortable saying directly to the team or a particular person.

Houston Homeschool Athlete Code of Conduct

My primary goal is to become the best player that I can be. I am responsible for my own actions and behavior.

Attitude:

- I will conduct myself in a manner that is respectful to me, my team and to Houston Homeschool Athletics. Including any activities/ drills that leadership initiates.
- I will abstain from alcohol, illegal drugs or tobacco during the course of the season. In no way will I imply that I am violating this policy.
- I will play with full effort and intensity.
- I will commit to my team by getting adequate sleep and healthy eating.

Communication:

- I will avoid criticism of my teammates.
- I will avoid giving unsolicited coaching tips to teammates and defer responsibility to my coaches.
- I will refrain from posting or communicating negative comments about other players, coaches, parents or the organization via texting, email or social media.

Coachability:

- I will accept decisions by my coaches knowing that everyone cannot start and have equal play time. I will accept my role on the team and do what it takes for the team to succeed.

Practice:

- I will be at practice: I see it as a priority. I will manage my time to complete class work.
- I will proactively contact my coach as far as ahead of time as possible if I am unable to make it to practice or a game.
- I will commit to being ready to step on the floor at the scheduled practice start time. That means I will have to get to practices and games at least 15 minutes ahead of time so that I can change and get ready.

Athlete/Player Agreement

I, _____, have read, understand, and agree to the policies, procedures, and code of conduct requirements as set forth in the HHA Parent/Player Handbook. As evidenced by my signature, I certify that I have read and understand all of the foregoing and consent to abide by the rules set forth therein.

Player Name (printed) _____

Player Signature _____ Date _____

HHA Parent Code of Conduct

Parents are crucial to the success of Houston Homeschool Athletics and their athlete's volleyball experience. HHA requires that the parent(s) of any player in our program sign this code of conduct contract. I therefore agree that:

Safe Play:

- I will inform the coach of my player's physical, emotional or other difficulty.
- I will reinforce a sports environment that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and sexual content and I will refrain from their use at all practices and games.

Sportsmanship:

- I will respect the officials and their authority during games. I understand that many of our officials are coaches and volunteers. I will not yell or scream at officials and leave it up to the coach to resolve issues with the official or scorekeeper.
- I will not coach my child during games or practices; I will let the coach direct him/ her.
- I will teach my child to play by the rules.
- I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning.

Coaching:

- I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during practices and games unless I am the official coach.
- I will avoid yelling instructions to the players during the game.
- I understand that playing time will be afforded to all players, but not necessarily in equal proportions. Playing time is the sole decision of the coach and may be influenced by attendance, tardiness, discipline, and ultimately by ability to play well in pressure situations.

Communication:

- I understand that my player should approach the coach if he/she has problems or concerns first and I will encourage him/ her to do so.
- I will wait 24 hours after an issue with the coach in order to make that conversation as productive as possible.
- I will refrain from discussing disagreements with players, other parents, coaches or administration with my children or other parents.
- I will **resolve conflicts** in a Matthew 18 manner as laid out in the parent handbook.
- I hereby authorize Houston Homeschool Athletics to post her name, picture, year of graduation, height, uniform number and position on the HHA website or with any recruiting materials.

Parent/Guardian Agreement Consent

I, _____, have read, understand, and agree to the policies, procedures, and code of conduct requirements as set forth in the HHA Parent/Player Handbook. As evidenced by my signature, I certify that I have read and understand all of the foregoing and consent to abide by the rules set forth therein. In addition, I certify that as a parent/guardian of this athlete, I have explained to my child the aforementioned stipulated conditions and their ramifications, and I consent to her participation in this organization in which he/she is a member. I agree to pay the team fees including the additional \$100 from fundraising. set forth by HHA VB, allowing my player to participate in the program. I also understand this is a volunteer based organization and I will do my part to volunteer.

Parent Name (printed) _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____