



Parent/Athlete Handbook

Website: <https://edgevolleyballvirginia.sportngin.com>

The administration and staff of the Edge Volleyball Virginia welcome you!



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OUR MISSION

Edge Volleyball Virginia is dedicated to providing its student-athletes with the technical, tactical and physical training to realize their highest potential. Our goal is to help each and every player regardless of age or ability to achieve maximum performance.

ABOUT THE EVV JUNIORS PROGRAM

Edge Volleyball Virginia is a member of the JVA, USAV, AAU and the Old Dominion Region, and competes in both USAV, JVA and AAU sanctioned events. EVV offers teams from U12 to U18. A minimum of 10-12 athletes will be selected to make up each team practicing up to 3 times per week depending on travel and school schedules.

COMMITMENT

We want to make you aware of the responsibilities that come with participation, and also let you know what Edge will provide in return. We know that your commitment to a EVV junior team will expose you to high quality volleyball, provide you with a valuable educational experience, and allow you to develop lifelong friendships.

1. Time and 100% effort are something EVV expects of our players. What you put into your time here at Edge, you will gain in return, - and more!
 - a. Attendance at tournaments and practice is mandatory.
 - i. Inconsistent attendance will affect your court time during matches.
 - ii. Missing tournaments and/or numerous practices could also be grounds for suspension from club activities.
 - iii. Length of suspension is determined by the club director and will be based off of the infraction.
 - iv. Extenuating circumstances:
 1. Sick – Don't come to practice if you might make others sick.
 2. Graded or mandatory School events.
 3. Injury: Injured players are expected to attend practice unless they are immobile, or attendance is detrimental to their recovery.
 - b. Attitude is part of your effort. Good Attitudes lead to team work and better effort. Bad attitudes will affect your court time during matches.
2. A non-refundable financial commitment is required by each player selected to play on an EVV team. A deposit amount and uniform payment is due on signing day, with the balance due in monthly payments as detailed in the legally binding contract.

A. Your financial investment includes:

- a) Tournament Registration and Fees
 - b) Coaches travel and pay
 - c) Coaches Hotels for overnight tournaments
 - d) Facility costs, insurance, maintenance, Membership
 - e) Balls, carts, training equipment, nets
 - f) Gym time for practices
 - g) Administration Fees
 - h) Use of comprehensive website
- 2) Extra costs outside of tuition include:
- a) Gear: Each Player must purchase/maintain the required uniform package for the specific team.
 - i) U13: 2 uniform jerseys
 - ii) U14 – U18: 3 uniform Jerseys
 - iii) 1 ball (gender and age appropriate for the player)
 - iv) Back pack/Travel Bag
 - v) 1 Hoodie
 - vi) 4 t-shirts (2 black and 2 green)
 - b) Other Expenses:
 - i) Player/Family travel expenses.
 - ii) Recruiting Information & assistance with college communication.
 - iii) AAU Registration

EVV PLAYER GUIDELINES

EVV intends to lead by example and requires you, the athlete, to do the same. These guidelines are set forth to protect the safety and integrity of you, your parents, the coaches, and EDGE VOLLEYBALL VIRGINIA. It is impossible to account for all potential circumstances; however, in the event of an undue circumstance the club will enforce appropriate action. It is our goal to set standards for other programs to mirror.

- Though the opportunity is always equivalent, playing time is never guaranteed to be equal. Playing time is a very complex determination. It includes the coach's opinion, the athlete's ability and potential, the athlete's attendance, the team's need at that moment of the game and in the future, work ethic, attitude, and role on the team. Please offer the experienced EVV coaches all the benefit of the doubt by supporting them with a positive attitude.
- Every athlete is expected to have a "Team First" attitude. Team above self should be shared by both players and parents. Negativity will not be tolerated.
- The top teams in the country have figured out how to eliminate DRAMA. Your teammates should be like family. You will not always agree with each other, but you will respect and fight for them at all times.

- You will need to be excellent at time management. As a student athlete you may miss class, tests, project deadlines, etc. due to tournament travel. You will need to organize your time so that your participation in practices and tournaments does not suffer. Missing practice for school work is not acceptable. By accepting an EVV roster position you understand that your teammates rely on your commitment to the team.

PRACTICE

- All team practices are mandatory. In the event of a missed practice, coaches should be notified as soon as possible. In all but the most extreme circumstances, one day's notice should be given. We expect our athletes to plan ahead for class assignments and projects and attend each practice unless sick.
- Always be ready to practice at least 15 minutes prior to your team taking the court. Practice time is limited so every athlete must be dressed, warmed up, and ready to go at scheduled practice time.
- All athletes are not required to wear certain brands of gear to practices. Coaches can delegate captains to choose what color of top everyone is to wear.
- An injured athlete who is able to attend school is expected to attend team practice, even if they cannot physically participate. This policy is to offer support to her team as well as to assist the coach in practice.
- Athletes must be "coachable" and be ready to adapt to new techniques and training methods determined by the coach.
- Cell phones are to be put away during practice time.
- Any negative behavior by players or parents will warrant immediate removal from the gym.

TOURNAMENTS

- All Tournaments are mandatory. It is important each player attends each match as the team's success will be determined by each team member's contribution to the whole.
- Unless otherwise instructed by a coach, cell phones are to be put away while in the tournament playing facility, during team events, and any other moment declared by the coaching staff. Coaches reserve the right to collect phones if they feel this policy is being disregarded.
- Athletes are to be courteous to officials, opponents, other parents, and coaches at all times. Each athlete is expected to behave in the most respectful manner towards their teammates, club mates, coaches, and general public. Our teams will adhere to a strict code of positive sportsmanship - this means, we will always cheer for our teams and never cheer against any of our own EVV teams.

- Athletes are NOT to leave the venue in spandex, wear cover ups when entering and leaving.
- Proper nutrition is required. Tournaments are an all-day affair. In some cases they are 2-3 days in length. It is your responsibility to refuel and hydrate your body appropriately throughout the tournament.
- Quality officiating is a display of your high volleyball I.Q, therefore EVV requires all athletes to become ODR certified in score keeping, line judging, R1, and R2. Each player must certify in each area and will be required to work on a rotating basis as the coach assigns. When you are assigned to work, show up before expected and be professional. (no swinging line judge flags, dancing, peppering, listening to music, etc. Phones are NOT allowed when working!)
- EVV athletes will be encouraged to support other EVV teams playing in the same tournament site.
- No team member is permitted to leave the tournament site until all officiating responsibilities are completed. There are circumstances where the coach can give the athlete permission to leave. If the athlete leaves without permission before officiating duties are completed, the club or coach will enforce disciplinary action. Multiple infractions will result in the athlete being expelled from the program.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Each family/ player is responsible for their own travel expenses to and from tournaments. EVV will have a block of team hotel rooms that parents will utilize, unless told otherwise. (Staying together provides a unique opportunity for teammates to develop closer bonds.) Several tournaments throughout the season are “Stay-to-Play’s”. This means each family/player must book at the hotel using the link sent out by the club (even if that means paying more for a hotel and not being able to use your reward points). STP’s are part of the agreement the club and you make in order to participate in certain tournaments. This is not our rule, but STP’s across the US operate this way. In the event a team or part of the team chooses to book elsewhere, the team may be assessed a fine and/or removed from participating in that tournament. For non-STP’s, players/families may choose to book on their own, but team hotel information will always be sent out as an option. Your coach will always be assigned to the same hotel as your team. This hotel will be where mandatory study halls and team meetings take place. If you choose to stay outside of the Team hotel (for non STP’s), you will be responsible for making sure your player attends and participates in all Team gatherings.

Other Travel Policies:

- EVV athletes should never be alone. Use the buddy system
- EVV athletes must inform their coach AND chaperone before going anywhere.

- EVV athletes must attend the mandatory study hall chosen by the coach for all 2- and 3-day tournaments.
- Any communications with members of the opposite sex you do not know is prohibited while traveling with EVV. No members of the opposite sex are allowed in your hotel room or hallway at any time, for any reason.
- Upon check-out, leave your hotel room in respectable condition.
- Remember that you are representing yourself, your family, and EVV at all times.
- Families and Players must arrive the night before play begins, without exception. This is to ensure each player arrives safely and leaves room for any unexpected issues.

GRIEVANCE POLICY & PROCEDURES

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.

First and foremost, parents should never approach a coach during a tournament. This is called the "24 hour rule". We ask that parents wait 24 hours after the finish of a tournament before asking to meet with their player's coach. We also ask that parents schedule a time to meet; please do not expect to meet with your coach without setting an appointment. We also ask that you begin with your coach, before asking to meet with the Director.

EVV has always tried to encourage the athlete to talk to the coach when he/she has a problem with his/her playing time. If the athlete is unclear about what the coach expects, either, in practice or in competition, the athlete should first communicate with the coach about what needs to be done to get more opportunities to play in matches or at another position. It is important that our athletes learn to advocate for themselves, a useful life skill. Parents, the first line of communication should begin with your athlete and their coach.

When parents have a concern that is specific to their own athlete, they are encouraged to speak first to the coach, if /when they feel their player has addressed the issue and the need is still present. Coaches WILL NOT discuss "coaching decisions." Coaching decisions include, among other things, specific match decisions involving other players (who played when, who was subbed in/out and when, etc.). Playing time is a very complex determination. It includes the coach's opinion, the athlete's ability, the athlete's potential, the athlete's attendance and levels of effort, the team's needs at the moment, the momentum of the game, and the team's needs for the future. The coach will not be required to defend his/her thought process or conclusions in these determinations, and it is improper for a parent to make such a request.

Edge Volleyball Virginia instructs coaches not to discuss any athlete other than the parent's own or the actions of any other EVV coach. If you, as a parent, have legitimate concerns about a coach other than your athlete's coach, or regarding an athlete other than your own, you must address the Director in a scheduled meeting.

OTHER POLICIES REGARDING GRIEVANCES WITH CHRV:

1. EVV will not tolerate hostile, aggressive confrontations between a parent and any official, coach, athlete, or another parent, whether the confrontation is within the club or not. Violation of this policy may result in the athlete(s) being dismissed from EVV.
2. It is inappropriate for an athlete or parent to approach other EVV members about a problem the athlete or parent is having with an EVV coach.
 - Asking uninvolved persons to take sides in an issue is unfair to the third party and to the club. For the psychological health of the teams and the club as a whole, grievances need to be handled between the parties involved and the decision makers in the situation.
 - Remember...Competitive team athletics, by nature alone, create situations where everyone may not be happy all of the time.
 - Any member who is approached and asked to listen to or to express an opinion about matters between two other parties in the club is strongly encouraged to refer the complaining party to either the coach or the directors.
 - Any member who, as a third party, hears remarks or stories about EVV, it's employees or it's 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 of which it may be unaware.
3. In the event a player/family must withdraw from participation with EVV altogether, the parent must present the written request to the Club Director, with any supporting documents (Deployment/transfers, injury, sickness, etc) for consideration. Because you signed a legally binding contract and the team membership and budget was created with your player committed, releasing you from your contract is not a guarantee. Rest assured, our goal is to work with you to help resolve the matter with the most mutually beneficial and peaceable outcome.

Procedure on Communicating your Grievance

1. The athlete should first speak to the coach about the matter. If the matter remains unresolved, then move on to step 2.
2. The parents should speak or meet with the coach. Parents and/or athlete should contact the coach via the telephone to set up a meeting time (not during a tournament).
 - A parent should never approach a coach at a tournament. We have instructed the coaches to follow the "24 hour -rule", to refuse to discuss any controversial matter, and to refer the parent to the club director. The coach will then walk away. The 24 hour rule mandates the tournament play be concluded 24 hours prior to scheduling a meeting.
 - The recommended time for a parent to schedule a meeting is usually before or immediately following a scheduled practice. If the matter remains unresolved, then go to step 3.
3. The parent may speak to the club director and request a meeting with the coach and club director together.
 - In certain situations, EVV may request the athlete to also attend.
 - Meetings should be previously arranged. This will not take place at a tournament site, a hotel site during a tournament, nor on the spot at practice. Making an appointment allows all parties to attend and be able to give their whole attention to the matter.
 - The Club Director will not engage in discussions about coaching decisions.

4. All issues or disputes, regardless of the nature or source, must follow the previously detailed club "Procedure Order " as stated in numerals 1-3 above

5. Any dispute with the club must be submitted to the Club Director. If there is an injury or other incident, include the date. For an injury, a doctor's note with a diagnosis and duration of rest or rehab before return to club participation should be submitted. All documented disputes will be considered.

Player Code of Conduct

Each athlete will be expected to comply with the rules and regulations set forth in this players/parents handbook. Any athlete who willfully performs any act, which is detrimental to their team, teammates, EVV or staff members shall be subject to discipline, suspension or expulsion from Edge Volleyball Virginia.

Automatic expulsions will result for the following offenses:

- Smoking or vaping at any EVV function
- Using alcohol or drugs at any time during a EVV function
- Approaching a coach, athlete or other EVV member in a non-appropriate manner at any EVV function
- Anything deemed "criminal activity" (Theft, Hazing, etc.)
- Failing to pay club dues
- Disruptive to team goals whether at practice or during competition.
- Bullying fellow teammates or other club members.
- Disrespect of tournament hosts or referee officials.

Parent Code of Conduct

As a parent, I will:

- Remain in the spectator areas during all games. (no parent may approach the team side of the court.)
- Not advise the coach on how to coach.
- Respect the integrity of the officials and not advise them how to call the match.
- Model sportsmanship for my child by treating all coaches, officials, tournament staff and players of either team with courtesy and respect.
- Encourage hard work and honest effort that will lead to improved performance and participation.
- Emphasize the cooperative nature of the sport.
- Not coach my child during the game.
- Attend all volleyball events alcohol and drug free.
- Cheer for my child's entire team.
- Be a positive sounding board for my child and encourage him/her to handle his/her issues.
- Be in control of my emotions.
- Learn the rules of the game to help me better understand what is happening on the court.
- Abide by all rules set by the practice facility and competition site.
- Honor financial commitments.

Agreement

As a EVV athlete I, _____ (print name) have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Parent/Athlete Guidelines set forth by the Edge Volleyball Virginia. I understand that I am responsible for my conduct while participating with EVV.

As a parent or guardian of the EVV athlete identified I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Parent/Athlete Guidelines set forth by EVV. I understand that my athlete is responsible for his/her conduct while participating with EVV.

Athlete's Signature	Date
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Parent's Signature	Date
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This sheet must be turned in to the player's coach. Participation with Edge Volleyball Virginia is not permitted without a signed copy of this sheet on file