

FISSION VOLLEYBALL PARENT-PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Fission Volleyball family. Above all, we want a great season for each of our athletes, coaches, and parents. That starts with the goal of an incident-free season. Everyone needs to be on the same page from day one to ensure the season runs smoothly. Club volleyball schedules are demanding of your time, energy, and finances; the last thing this club wants to do is add to that with unnecessary uncertainty regarding rules and guidelines. We would love to field any questions regarding the matters discussed below.

General Policies for ALL Athletes – All Teams

1. All Athletes must adhere to the USAV Code of Conduct, which is attached.
2. All Athletes are expected to attend all events scheduled for their team.
3. All Athletes are responsible for their own uniforms. Any replacement costs will be your responsibility.

Travel Policies

1. All athletes are responsible for their own hotel arrangements and expenses. In the future, we would like to include rooms for the girls at each event, but we are starting off without. Teams are to coordinate and attempt to stay in the same hotel each tournament in accordance with the stay and play hotels list. This allows for team cohesion and ease of scheduling.
2. We cannot predict the wave times for each team. **It is highly encouraged that you get to the tournament the night before regardless of wave times.**
3. Athletes are to be in their respective hotel rooms by the curfew time requested by the coach. Parents should do their best to ensure athletes are sleeping to prepare for the next day, not on their phones.
4. At no time will an Athlete be allowed to leave hotel/tournament property without the expressed permission of their coach. If there is appropriate “downtime”, your parents may request to take you off the premises.
5. Any parent volunteer providing transportation for a tournament is under the direction of the Coach insofar as when and where Athletes are required to be. Please do not volunteer if you cannot work in conjunction with the team requirements.
6. Transportation to and from all practices, Club-sponsored clinics, airports, and tournaments is the responsibility of the parents. Teams may agree to travel together if convenient.
7. No Athlete may drive to or from an out-of-town tournament without permission from the Director.

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9. The Coach and Director will select the time and location for when/where they want the athletes to meet for tournaments.
10. When at Restaurants, the Team and Coaches will sit together in one area. Parents may be invited to Team meals but will sit with the other parents. Team Bonding is vital to long-term success.
11. When at a lodging or tournament location, Athletes must travel in pairs (at a minimum) when walking around/outside of the premises.
12. When at the lodging location, there shall be no display of disrespect toward any Club (Fission or other Club) Coach, Athlete, Parent, Chaperone, or Hotel Guest/Employee. We should strive to set an example.
13. Boys are not permitted in the rooms or hallways of the Athletes' lodging at any time. The only exception to this policy is the relative of an Athlete. Violation of the policy will result in an immediate review of the athlete's status with the club.

Attendance Policies

1. Fission will enforce the following practice and tournament attendance policy for every athlete. This is not intended to prevent an Athlete from playing another sport while participating with Fission. Attendance at practices and tournaments may affect playing time.
2. General Policy: It is the responsibility of the Athlete or the parents to notify the coach of any scheduled team event that the Athlete will be missing with at least one week's notice for practices, and two weeks' notice for tournaments.
 - a. Practice
 - i. **All Practices are Mandatory.** There are no exceptions for schoolwork or homework. It is the Athlete's responsibility to balance schoolwork with practice.
 - ii. If an Athlete has eight (**8**) absences during the season, the Club Director will conduct a review to determine if that Athlete should remain with the Team.
 - iii. Missing more than ½ of a practice counts as an absence. Flexibility will be extended to school departure time and school location as well as the location of residence in relation to the practice site.
 - iv. All absences from practices will be evaluated by the Club Director with proper documentation on a case-by-case basis. Life throws curveballs, but this club is not for those who regularly miss practice.
 - b. Tournaments
 - v. Missing a part of any tournament day counts as 1 absence.
 - vi. Attendance at National Qualifiers and Regionals is mandatory.

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- vii. The Club Director will evaluate all tournament absences with proper documentation on a case-by-case basis.

Athlete/Parent Conduct at a Tournament/Practice Site

It is the intent of Fission to be a leader in the Valdosta Volleyball Community and beyond. It is also the intent of Fission to lead by example, which means that both the Athlete and the Parents of the Athlete need to lead by example. These guidelines are set forth to protect the safety and integrity of you, your parents, the Coaches, and Fission. Please be aware that all circumstances are not accounted for and in the event of an undue circumstance, the Director will enforce appropriate action. We intend to conduct ourselves in a way that reflects the same values we teach our athletes every day.

BE ADVISED: All Policies listed here, where appropriate, are for Athletes AND Parents.

1. **EQUAL PLAYING TIME IS NOT GUARANTEED.** Coaches evaluate athletes during practices on a weekly basis. Playing time at Tournaments is earned at Practice. If you have a question about your playing time, set up a time with your Coach to discuss the situation per the grievance/escalation policies listed below.
2. “Conduct unbecoming an Athlete” will not be tolerated at any Fission function/event. This covers a wide variety of circumstances, for example, the use of foul language or rude gestures towards other athletes, parents, coaches, officials, or opponents.
3. No Parent is to talk with any other Athlete, Parent, Coach, Tournament Official/Director, or Referee in an argumentative or disparaging manner. This is a new club; we cannot afford to start off with this type of reputation at our tournaments.
4. Parents are to be supportive of their Athletes during tournaments and not question them or their teammates regarding their play or about how much or how little they have played. When in doubt, Fission believes Parent support should be Unconditional- We are ALL “All Team All the Time.”
5. Parents are not to “Coach” their Athletes during Tournaments. The Athletes should be focused solely on what Coaches have to say and need to concentrate on such. This includes players looking over to their parents every play. We want them focused on the next play.
6. Our policy is “All Team All the Time.” When we are in the gym for a Tournament, athletes are responsible for staying with their Team at all times. In the event friends attend a tournament, it should be understood that an athlete’s priority is with their team.
7. Cell phone policy: No Cell phones are allowed to be used in the gym during any Practice and/or at Tournaments. All Cell phones will be put away in the evening at a time specified by the Head Coach. (Note: The Head Coach will always be

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available via cell phone.) This includes not being on phone during water breaks at practice unless to arrange transportation.

8. Proper nutrition is required. Practices will be very demanding on your physical abilities. Tournaments are an all-day affair, and in some cases two and three days long. Your Coach will advise you on acceptable items to eat during tournaments. In all cases, it is important to stay well-hydrated at all times.
9. If an Athlete is removed by Parents for any reason from the Tournament site without previous permission from the Head Coach, Fission will consider that Athlete to have resigned from the Program. There will be no refund for the remainder of the season.
10. For many Tournaments, Teams will be responsible for officiating, scorekeeping, and line judging. Each athlete 12 and older are required to attend an SRVA clinic online on Scorekeeping or Officiating. Our policy on officiating is we want to officiate other teams the way we ourselves would want to be officiated.
11. No Team Member is permitted to leave a tournament site until all officiating responsibilities are completed. There may be circumstances for Local Tournaments where the Head Coach can give you permission to leave.
12. You are to support your Teammates at all times while on the Team bench, whether you are playing in a particular match or not. Poor Bench behavior includes not expressing verbal/vocal support for your teammates, conducting side conversations taking other's attention off the match, disrupting the match with inappropriate discussions with the Coach or Coaches, or questioning your playing time or status during the match.
13. Parents are to be supportive of the entire Team at all times, and all Fission Teams while at Tournaments. Parents are not to engage in any behavior in cheering that would reflect negatively on Fission. Guidelines for Parents are no different from Athletes in this regard.
14. Only the Head Coach or the Team Captain, under the direction of the Head Coach, may question an official.
15. The team will travel together (if possible) from the hotel to playing sites, dressed in the same representative club attire. For the purposes of Uniforms, Athletes are NOT allowed to wear non-Fission attire from the time they enter the gym until the time the Tournament is over. Some combination of the Fission uniform package, including jersey, warm-up t-shirt, Training shirt, hoodies, and warmups is to be worn between matches. No School attire is allowed, nor are decorated team t-shirts and the like, within the competition venue. We want college coaches, our competition, parents, and spectators to recognize the Fission brand.

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16. Athletes are to wear Fission Practice T-shirts during Team practices. School Attire is not to be worn to or from practices, including hoodies, sweatshirts, or sweatpants.

Be Advised: Tournaments begin when a team leaves Valdosta and does not end until the Team returns to Valdosta.

USAV National Championships

1. It is the goal of Fission to send teams in each age bracket to the USAV National Championships every year. These championships are conducted by USA Volleyball and are held in late June/early July in a predetermined city each year (e.g. Las Vegas 2024).
2. If the AAU national championship (Orlando, FL) is a better fit for the team, we will arrange for that instead.
3. Each National has an entry fee to be paid unless we secure a bid that covers the cost.
4. It is the Athlete/Family's responsibility prior to the Regional Competition to notify the Team's Head Coach if they are not willing or able to attend the National Championship tourney.
3. Fission reserves the right to add Athletes to a roster of a Team that has qualified for the National Championships in order to field a competitive team as permitted by the USAV Rules.
4. If a Team qualifies for the National Championships, all standard Fission Travel policies will apply to these travel situations, including Hotel policies, Travel together policies, and Team meal policies.
5. All teams will all participate in tournaments in May and June as a lead-in to the National Championships. Even if they are not qualified, all of Fission's teams will participate in these tournaments.
6. The entry fee costs for attending the National Championship ARE included in the stated player fees. However, This DOES NOT include travel expenses, just the entry fee. All coach pay, coaches' hotels, and associated costs are included in your club dues. Again, the only additional charge is for you to arrange travel and hotels.

Expulsions and Suspensions

While it is not the intent of Fission to suggest there will or could be problems, the Mission and integrity of Fission are foremost in our minds. Suspensions have been identified where appropriate in this document. The Head Coach and Director will evaluate all situations. Fairness to all is our objective; use your common sense in all situations.

Fission will support the following:

Immediate Director Review will result for the following offenses:

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- Smoking at any Fission function
- Using alcohol or drugs at any time during a Fission function
- Leaving lodging premises without notifying the Coach and without a chaperone
- Having members of the opposite sex in your room (other than relatives)
- If the Athlete has more than 8 absences (Subject to Club Director Review)
- Bullying on or off of the court, including on their phones
- Acting in any way that is counter to the team's interest
- Parents being hostile or rude to any of the staff or coaches

Grievance/Escalation Procedure

The procedure outlined below is designed to help Athletes and Parents with questions, concerns, or problems that may occur during the course of the season. It ensures Open and Honest Communication between all parties involved.

1. The Athlete must first ask for a meeting between the Coaches and herself to discuss the issue at hand. In the case of Athletes on 14's and younger Teams, the Parent may request the meeting.
2. If the issue is unresolved, the Parent may ask for a meeting between themselves and the Coaching Staff to discuss the issue. The meeting should take place at a location considered adequate for a private discussion agreed upon by both the Parent and Coach- NOT at a Tournament and/or Practice. Coaches are not to address these issues at Tournaments and are told to advise the Director in the event that any of these conversations are started at a Tournament. This includes in-person and over-the-phone communications.
3. If the issue is unresolved, the Parent must ask for a meeting with the Club Director, Parent, Athlete, and Coach. A scheduled time away from practice or a tournament is appropriate. The Decision of the Club Director at this point is FINAL.

Sign-Off Sheet – Bring this with you to Commitment Night

Athlete Name: _____ Age: _____

Team Name: _____

We, the parents/guardians of _____, have read the aforementioned information concerning the policies and practices of Fission. We agree that having been selected to a team, to let her join Fission for the 2023 - 2024 club season. We have read the information provided and understand the time and commitment involved in the practice and competition schedule. We have reviewed the fee schedule and agree to pay all fees. We understand that, though Club fees are collected in four installments, execution of this document obligates the parent for the full amount of the club fee, inclusive of uniform and travel costs.

Understanding the stipulations and having discussed these with our child, we agree to and will support her participation in Fission. We understand that once registered with and having participated with Fission, the Athlete will be unable to transfer clubs.

I, _____, the athlete of Fission, have read the aforementioned information concerning the policies and practices of Fission Volleyball and agree to follow these policies. I understand the commitment I am making to Fission and that if I should choose not to follow the policies as expressed above and any additional boundaries set forth by my coach, my playing time may be restricted, and I risk expulsion from Fission.

I, _____, the parent of a Fission athlete, have read the aforementioned information concerning the policies and practices of Fission Volleyball and agree to follow these policies. I understand the commitment I am making to Fission and that if I should choose not to follow the policies as expressed above and any additional boundaries set forth by the Team's Head Coach and/or the Director, I may be asked to leave the Fission program.

This Code of Conduct, together with any attachment(s), will be governed by the laws of the State of Georgia.

Parent/Guardian Print Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Athlete Print Name: _____

Athlete Signature: _____

Date: _____