



**SOUTHWEST
MILWAUKEE VBC**

2018 - 2019

**PARTICIPANT & FAMILY
HANDBOOK**

Welcome to Southwest Milwaukee Volleyball Club!

Table of Contents

Club Mission	3
Club History	3
Contact Information	3
Team and Fee Information	4-5
Club Dues Cost & What's Included In Our Fees.....	4
Payment Structure & Refund Policy.....	4-5
Badger Region Non-Payment Policy.....	5
Practices	6-7
Practice Locations, Schedule, Pick-up and Drop-Off Information.....	6
Practice Structure and Attendance.....	6
Weather/Cancellation Policy.....	7
Playing Time	7-8
What Determines Playing Time?.....	7
Communication Regarding Playing Time.....	8
Competition and Tournaments	8-10
Scheduling and Objectives.....	8
Day-Of Schedule, Uniforms.....	8
Scorekeeping and Officiating Requirements.....	9
Player Behavior.....	9
Travel.....	10
Communication	10-11
Club Communication Policy and Guidelines.....	10
Club Grievance Procedure.....	11
How To Be A Supportive Parent	12-14
Signature Sheets (Player/Parent Copy, Club Copy)	15-16

Club Mission

Provide young athletes with a positive and rewarding volleyball experience, with quality coaching at an affordable price, while allowing them to participate in school sports or activities.

Club History

Our club started in 1992 to offer quality coaching at a reasonable price to players in the southwest Milwaukee area. There was, and still is a need for a quality volleyball club in our area that people could afford and yet did not demand an eight month season. We felt that we have provided this and have since grown into one of the largest volleyball clubs in Wisconsin.

Southwest Volleyball Club is located in the southwestern area of Milwaukee, WI county. Our club invites young athletes of ages 8-18 to participate in our club. We offer girls and boys programs in each age group, depending on the number of members involved in the club.

In 2013, Southwest volleyball Club opened it's own two court practice facility in Waukesha. This practice site enables us to have complete control of practice times and training sessions.

Contact Information

Adam Stikel - Club Director

Email: Adamstikel@gmail.com

Phone: 414-416-8450

Social Media

Facebook - Southwest Milwaukee Volleyball Club

Send photos and videos to - southwestvbc.social@gmail.com

Southwest Facility

1260 S. West Ave

Waukesha, WI 53186

Payment Address

6100 W Mitchell St

Milwaukee, WI 53214

Team and Fee Information

Southwest Milwaukee Volleyball Club offers programs for many different age and skill levels. We offer programs for both boys and girls from ages 12 to 18. We also offer instructional levels for ages 8-11, please visit our website for more information on these programs.

There are several options per age group with time and travel commitments varying, along with price:

- Coed U10/11 = \$500 (5 tournaments)
- Girls 12 Blue & Girls 13-16 White - \$1050 (9 tournaments/10+ Playdates)
- Girls 13- 18 Blue - \$1250 (BRPL + 4 tournaments/13+ Playdates)*

- Boys 12 - \$675 (4 tournaments + 3-5 B12 Play dates)
- Boys 13 - \$725 (5 tournaments)
- Boys 13/14 - \$90 (6 tournaments)
- Boys 16 - \$1050 (6 tournaments – Includes 1 Qualifier)

*Additionally, our Girls 14-18 Blue teams will automatically be entered into the patriot division for USAV Nationals. This is an additional \$400-\$500 fee in addition to the base fee listed above.

The club fees include:

- Gym time for practice
- Tournament Fees
- 2 uniforms, 1 pair of shorts/spandex, 2 SWVBC practice tees & 1 SWVBC warmup item
- Equipment Use
- Administrative fees and supplies
- Coaches compensation and travel

Additional fees that will be covered by the player/parent:

- Travel expenses, including hotel, food and transportation
- Shoes, socks & other activewear not listed above

Payment Structure

Our club submits payment for many items and tournaments prior to collecting any money from participants. It is important that payments are made in full and on time to ensure full enrollment into all events a team wishes to participate in for the season. All membership dues for the base fees are due in full at the start of the season (December). Additional national fees for our national teams will be due mid-season in April. We will accept payment in the form of checks or cash.

Southwest Milwaukee VBC Refund Policy

Due to our budget requirements, we do not offer refunds. Refunds will not be given to athletes who choose not to play because of conflicts, team or coaching assignments, or an individual's amount of playing time. Prorated refunds will be considered for athletes who suffer season-ending injuries while playing on a Southwest Milwaukee Volleyball team, on a case-by-case basis with a physician's letter. Injuries occurred outside of Southwest Milwaukee Volleyball will not be considered for a refund.

Additionally, club dues are not dependent on the number of tournaments or practices a player can make. Each member of the team will pay the same amount for the entire season, regardless of time commitment.

Badger Region Volleyball Association's Policy On Unpaid Player Dues

As stated in the Badger Region Volleyball Association's Club Director Handbook:

A Junior Club player must remit all club fees as specified by their Club/Team, within the club's scheduled time frame. If fees are unpaid at the end of the Club's season, the Club Director may use any legal means necessary to obtain payment, i.e. collection agency. Nonpayment will result in the athlete's name being submitted to the Badger Region Office, resulting in the athlete being restricted from registering or participating with the Region until the fees are paid. A letter requesting payment that includes the parent's name, player's name, player's age level and notification of this policy must be sent to the family and a copy to the region office. Club directors must notify the region office immediately when payment has been made and the hold will be taken off the player's membership in Webpoint.

Practices

Only IMPACT-certified adults with current USAV memberships and properly background-checked club volleyball personnel are allowed to provide instruction and have on-court contact with players during practice or tournaments.

Parents are allowed to attend practice if they so choose (or not), however, parents are not allowed to “shag” balls during practices or tournaments unless they are registered with USAV/Badger Region.

We expect players, parents and coaches to keep this facility clean while we use it. If we abuse this location, we risk losing it. Players are asked to turn their cell phones off during practice. Any player whose phone rings/beeps/plays a sound during practice will face consequences.

Locations and Schedule

Practices will last 1.5-2 hours and will include basic and advanced volleyball techniques and scrimmage time. Practices will be held twice a week at the Southwest Facility and will be conducted by the team’s coach and/or assistant coach. Practice schedules will be posted a month in advance on our website. YOUR TEAM’S CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE EACH MONTH, NO DATES/TIME ARE GUARANTEED FOR THE ENTIRE SEASON. Changes will be made on the website and via an email from the coach, so please be sure to check both of these points prior to practice.

Pick-Up & Drop-Off Information

Parents of players age 12 and under are asked to come into the facility to pick up your child, this is for all of our players’ safety. Parents are reminded to pick your child up timely at the end of practice. Coaches should not be required to wait 15-45 minutes for players to be picked up after their scheduled practice is completed. If this is a consistent problem, parents of the player(s) will be contacted by the Club Director.

Practice Structure & Attendance

Scheduled practice time is start time. Please arrive early enough to be dressed and completely ready for practice by designated start time, which usually requires 15 minutes before start time. IF AN ATHLETE CAN NOT BE AT PRACTICE, THE ATHLETE IS EXPECTED TO CALL THE COACH. It is the athlete’s responsibility (not the parent) to reach the coach before the practice starts. If unable to attend due to a previous commitment, let your coach know at least a week in advance. Southwest VBC Players are expected to wear practice shirts to practice, additional practice shirts beyond the two that are provided are available for purchase. Wearing other club apparel during practice will not be tolerated.

Practice Cancellations – Weather-Related Cancellations

Please be aware that Southwest Milwaukee Volleyball Club may have to cancel practice at the last minute due to weather, coach unavailability, personal emergencies and scheduling conflicts.

WEATHER-RELATED CANCELLATIONS: If schools are closed or school events are cancelled, so are our practices. If the morning/afternoon forecast calls for bad weather late in the day, keep an eye on your email. Any cancelled practice will be announced on the website and via email by 3 p.m. Please be careful when driving into the facility parking lot during icy conditions.

Players are encouraged to use their best judgment when attempting to travel to practice. The safety of the athlete and their family is our first concern and priority. If you will not be making practice due to weather, please call your coach ASAP.

Playing Time

What determines playing time?

Playing time is very important to us. It is important to apply the skills and fundamentals taught in practice in a match situation – only then can a coach and player truly realize which skills the player is proficient at and which skills require more training. Your club membership fees go toward practice time and instruction by qualified experienced coaches, NOT playing time in tournaments. We will guarantee a “fair” amount of playing time for every player, not an “equal” amount.

When assessing the amount of playing time, make sure that the comparison is being made about players who play the same position. For example, there may be only two middle hitters on a team and three outside hitters. One outside hitter must sit out, since only two are in the game at the same time. Yet the two middle hitters play all the time. Please also keep in mind substitution rules and rotations.

More playing time is earned by being at practice and working hard to improve, as well as executing the skills when given the opportunity to play. Coaches are advised to give everyone an opportunity to contribute their individual skills and abilities to the team during pool play matches. Those skills and abilities may include being a hitter in the front row, serving and playing defense in the back row, or playing all the way around. When teams advance past pool play, this is the time to reward those players who have excelled when given opportunities earlier in the day. THE AMOUNT OF PLAYING TIME FOR ALL PLAYERS IS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COACH AND MAY NOT BE EQUAL FOR ALL PLAYERS. Attitude toward teammates and coaches, willingness to learn and apply, communication and comprehension also all go into playing time considerations.

Communication regarding playing time

Please do NOT talk to the coach about playing time during or immediately following a tournament. If you have a concern about playing time, it is best to set up a meeting with the coach (along with your child) to discuss playing time and the reasoning behind why these decisions were made.

Competition and Tournaments

Scheduling and Objectives

Southwest Milwaukee Volleyball Club will work to make the most competitive schedule possible with the athletes on each team. Tournaments are RARELY, if ever, cancelled because of weather. We are expected to make every effort to attend. However, if we decide that the safety of the participants is at risk, a recommendation will be made not to attend. However, we will NOT be refunded for this fee, hence, the participants will not be refunded either.

Day-Of Schedule

Each tournament format is determined by the organization hosting the event. Tournament hosts will provide actual day-of scheduling details Wednesday-Friday prior to the tournament date. This will be either emailed out or posted on their website. Your coach will send you this information as soon as we receive it. PLEASE DO NOT REPEATEDLY CONTACT US ABOUT THE SCHEDULE as we do not have this information prior to Wednesday-Friday. Plan on being at the tournament early in the morning and remaining there all day long. Tournaments can run ahead of schedule or (more often) behind schedule. Please be prepared. Please also be aware that there could be additional charges for spectator entry and/or parking, and many facilities have rules regarding outside food and beverage.

Uniforms

Uniforms are to be worn only on tournament days and only by team members. Uniforms should not be worn for practice or out in public. All players are expected to be in full uniform each time the team competes at a tournament. If you happen to lose your uniform, you will NOT be provided with a new one. Uniform maintenance is the responsibility of the player, if you forget your shorts or jersey, you will NOT be able to participate. PLEASE PACK THE NIGHT BEFORE A TOURNAMENT! Players are expected to bring ALL jerseys to every tournament.

Scorekeeping and Officiating Duties

All players are expected to help officiate in one of these capacities:

- Line judge
- Scorekeeper (visual or paper)
- Libero tracker
- 2nd referee (down)

Training will be provided to all club members prior to the first tournament to be able to do each of these positions, and online tools are also available to help you learn. **NO PLAYER IS EXEMPT FROM OFFICIATING DUTIES!**

It is also important to note that oftentimes when you lose your last match of the day, you will be expected to officiate the next match. **NO PLAYER MAY LEAVE THE TOURNAMENT IN ADVANCE OF THE ENTIRE TEAM, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY ARE ASSIGNED AN OFFICIATING DUTY OR NOT.** Under certain extreme circumstances, permission may be granted by the coach for a player to leave early.

No cell phones or electronic devices should be at the scorekeeping tables or used by any player with a refereeing assignment. If seen by the coach, they will be confiscated and turned over to the parent(s). If a parent is not present, the phone or device will be held by the coach until the end of the day.

Player Behavior

All Southwest Milwaukee Volleyball Club players will demonstrate good behavior at tournaments, which includes:

- No discussion with officials concerning calls
- Help officiating when asked by your coach
- Return balls to ball bag after warmups and keep track of medical bag/water bottles
- Food is to be eaten in the designated area
- Clean up the bench area of empty bottles after matches
- No stealing or vandalism
- No smoking, drugs or alcohol
- If staying at a hotel, players must adhere to the lights-out policy (as established by the coach), even if staying in a room with adults
- Do not leave the gym or tournament until the coach releases you

Any violations of these policies may result in suspension of play and possible dismissal from the club. Serious offenses will also be reported to the appropriate authorities, the Region and high schools. Southwest Milwaukee Volleyball Club will not be responsible for any player's personal items while participating in an event. All athlete's personal items will be their own responsibility while playing or during hotel lodging.

Travel

Many tournaments require travel time. It is the responsibility of the family to get the player to the tournament on time. This may mean traveling as a family or making arrangements for your child. Coaches are NOT allowed to transport players, unless that player is their child. These trips are for the player's volleyball experience and training as a member of a team, not a family vacation. Parents must understand (as indicated in the forthcoming Agreement at the end of this handbook) and agree that when the team is traveling to tournaments, Southwest Milwaukee Volleyball Club will not act in place of a parent or assume any duty of supervision including at hotels or in the course of transportation to or from the event.

There are different types of events that we will travel to:

- One-day event held on a Saturday or Sunday, generally starting at 8 a.m.
- Two-day events held on Saturday AND Sunday
- A National Qualifier, which involves leaving on a Thursday and playing Friday, Saturday and Sunday, or leaving on a Friday and playing Saturday, Sunday and Monday.
- A larger national tournament that spans 3-5 days and can include travel to and from the event

Weekend or longer tournaments may require overnight lodging that is not included in the team fee. Players are required to stay with a parent or other designated adult. Although we will provide site directions given to us, please double check with other sources. Please make sure you know where you are going and allow more than enough time to get there. Getting lost is not an acceptable excuse for being late and could jeopardize playing time.

Communication

Club Communication Policy & Guidelines

Parenting and coaching are important and complementary vocations and by working together we are able to better provide benefits to the player. Since he/she is beginning to move into the adult world, one of our goals is to make them responsible for their own actions. Since our goal as a program is to move each athlete forward in their development as a player and a person, it is our request that you encourage your child to discuss any of the issues first with their coach. If your child is unclear of the resolution, please feel free to contact the coach with your child present.

Southwest Milwaukee VBC Conflict Resolution Policy

The following guidelines have been established to protect the players, coaches and parents from uncomfortable and inappropriate situations when it comes to the professional discussion and handling of grievances. The coaches within Southwest Milwaukee VBC have been instructed to adhere to these guidelines to better maintain the club/player/parent relationship. The procedure to discuss concerns about policies and actions are as follows:

1. The athlete should speak with the coach regarding the matter and try to resolve any grievances
2. If the matter remains unresolved and there is a legitimate concern, the parent AND athlete should request to meet with the coach. Coaches will ONLY meet with parents when the athlete is present, and not at a tournament.
3. Southwest Milwaukee VBC requires 24 hours from the time of the incident before a meeting is able to be scheduled. Please conduct all scheduling through email.
 1. Please do not confront a coach before, during or after an event. Arrange to meet with your coach at a convenient time for all parties, including before or after practice.
 2. If a parent approaches a coach during a tournament, we have instructed our coaches to refuse to discuss the situation, to refer the parent to a club director, and walk away.
 3. We also instruct our coaches not to get involved in a texting conversation.
4. If the matter still remains unresolved, the parent can request a meeting with the club director, along with the coach and the player. **THE PLAYER MUST BE PRESENT AT THE MEETING.**

Southwest Milwaukee VBC will not acknowledge or act upon any negative emails. While convenient for conveying details, email can also leave room for interpretation of feelings and misunderstandings. To initiate the grievance process, please contact the coach by email to schedule an in-person meeting.

It is important that players and parents alike understand that conversation with a coach is allowed and encouraged at any time throughout the season as long as it is civil and polite. However, when problems arise, we will all need to be rational and calm before discussion occurs.

How To Be A Supportive Parent

Youth programs cannot be successful without the support of parents. The following guidelines are for concerned parents as they strive to be supportive of their young athletes without being pushy.

1. Supportive parents focus on mastering sport skills and strategies rather than competitive rankings. Sport mastery focuses on performance, which can be controlled by the athlete, while competitive ranking focuses primarily on winning and losing, an outcome, which is frequently outside the athlete's control. An overemphasis on competitive rank and an under emphasis on sport mastery is a primary cause of a dramatic dropout rate in competitive sports by 12 to 18 year olds.
2. Supportive parents decrease the pressure to win. Supportive parents realize that sport creates its own pressure to succeed. Additional pressure from the parent is likely to be counterproductive, particularly, in the long run. Supportive parents avoid making the outcome of the game bigger than life. As a game or a competition becomes blown out of proportion, a youngster's self-esteem can become tied to winning or losing. A child should not feel less valuable or less loved when a match is lost.
3. Supportive parents believe that sport's primary value is the opportunity for self-development. The probability of achieving lasting fame and glory via sport is low. Many outstanding athletes never achieve professional status. However, their sports experiences have allowed them to develop life-long values and self-respect.
4. Supportive parents understand the risks. Competition places the athlete on center stage. Anytime competing is willingness to chance failure. Giving your best is what athletics is all about.
5. Supportive parents communicate their true concerns directly with the coach/teacher. A positive working relationship is based upon clearly communicated mutual goals among parents, coaches and athletes. While a parent cannot control the behavior of a coach/teacher, they can communicate with the coach/teacher on a regular basis about the overall development of their child.
6. Supportive parents understand and respect the difference between parental roles and coaching roles. While parents are ultimately responsible for their child's development, once they have chosen a program/coach they must leave the coaching to the coach/teacher. Even though Supportive parents often play sports with their child they avoid coaching "over the shoulder" of the coach/teacher and/or publicly questioning the coaching decisions.

7. Supportive parents control negative emotions and think positively. Few athletes wish to perform poorly. Negative reactions to poor performances only add to an athlete's pressures. Supportive parents realize that even the athlete who "chokes" is trying to succeed. In fact, part of the problem with many athletes is that they are trying too hard to succeed. Criticizing such athletes does little to enhance their performances.

8. Supportive Parents KNOW HOW TO HELP YOUR ATHLETE DEAL WITH FRUSTRATIONS OF TEAM SPORT - CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING: 1. How to deal with demanding superiors 2. How to be a cooperative team member 3. How to make use of both positive and negative feedback 4. How to cope with adversity 5. How to achieve mental toughness 6. How to be a gracious winner 7. How to live with the eccentricities of coaches, teammates, and opponents.

Guidelines For Being A Positive Parent

1. Be positive with your child. Let them know they are successful simply because they are a part of the TEAM.

2. Encourage your child to seek their own answers. If he/she is unsuccessful at working things out with his/her coach, schedule a meeting with the coach and have your son/daughter attend with you. (You may not be hearing the whole story - a very common occurrence)

3. Be supportive of the coaching staff. If you have questions or concerns please talk with the coach at the appropriate time. Never approach a coach with complaints after a tough game. Wait and schedule a visit after everyone cools off.

4. Be careful not to show animosity or jealousy toward any of your child's teammates. Many things will aggravate you that do not faze your child. Do not make something into an issue if it is not an issue. This type of attitude can rub off on your child and affect the whole team.

5. Please think before criticizing anyone connected with the club or your child's team. Criticism is contagious and open harmful. The damage can be irreversible.

6. Do your physical part as a parent. Get your child to practice on time and pick them up promptly. Encourage your son/daughter to work hard, be smart, and to do his/her best in everything they attempts. You are a role model for your child.

7. Insist on your child's respect for TEAM rules, game officials, and sportsmanship. As a fan, you are entitled to your enthusiasm, but please do not be belligerent towards players, coaches or officials.

8 .Visibly show that you enjoy watching your child perform; this will make them feel better about individual participation, no matter what the role.

9. Positions and talent sometimes do not match up. Coaches attempt to do what is best for the team, putting the best physical mix and best “chemistry” on the floor. That may mean that sometimes your child may be playing “out of position” in an attempt to strengthen the team. Stay positive and maybe your child will flourish.

10. Encourage your child to PLAY FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME, not for scholarship or something that is in the hands of college recruiters.

Southwest Milwaukee VBC Signature Page (Parent/Player Copy)

I have read and understand this handbook and agree to follow these rules and any other rules and regulations deemed appropriate by Southwest Milwaukee VBC. By signing this agreement, the player and parent signify they understand the rules and regulations to participate with Southwest Milwaukee Volleyball Club.

Rules included in this manual may only be the basic guidelines and other rules may be added throughout the playing season that would enhance the performance and structure of Southwest Milwaukee Volleyball Club.

I understand the communication procedures outlined in this handbook and will follow these procedures should an issue arise during the season.

Parent(s), Legal Guardian(s) Signature

Date

Player Signature

Date

Player Name (Printed) & Team Name

This page is to remain with the family for your records.

Southwest Milwaukee VBC Signature Page (Club Copy)

I have read and understand this handbook and agree to follow these rules and any other rules and regulations deemed appropriate by Southwest Milwaukee VBC. By signing this agreement, the player and parent signify they understand the rules and regulations to participate with Southwest Milwaukee Volleyball Club.

Rules included in this manual may only be the basic guidelines and other rules may be added throughout the playing season that would enhance the performance and structure of Southwest Milwaukee Volleyball Club.

I understand the communication procedures outlined in this handbook and will follow these procedures should an issue arise during the season.

Parent(s), Legal Guardian(s) Signature

Date

Player Signature

Date

Player Name (Printed) & Team Name

This page is to be turned into the club for their records.