

Crossfire VBC

Parent/Player Information Manual

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The purpose of having a parent/player manual is to have you become familiar with Crossfire VBC policies, procedures and guidelines. Most of your questions can be answered in this manual. Keep this as an electronic copy for yourself, refer to it on-line at our club’s website, and/or print your own hard copy for your personal files.

Crossfire VBC Board

WELCOME and CLUB HISTORY

Welcome to the Crossfire VBC, which is a local, non-profit organization. The club functions under the guidelines of Badger Region Volleyball Association. The club is designed to meet the ever-changing needs of the area junior volleyball players, who want to play at various competitive levels and love the sport of volleyball!

Crossfire VBC was first established as a volleyball club in the fall of 2016. The previous name was Milton Aces Volleyball Club, which was founded in the fall of 2002 for the main purpose of promoting and developing competitive volleyball in the Milton area. This club started with two team age groups, one 14s and one 16s. Through the years, Milton Aces VBC grew from 20 female players and 3 coaches to over 100 participants. These past years we were able to offer different levels of play from developmental to highly competitive. During the 2016-17 season, we moved the club's status to a non-profit organization, and changed our name to Crossfire VBC for various reasons.

Our club uses the support of a volleyball club Board to help the director and staff with club decisions and responsibilities. This board is made up of volunteers and parents who have an invested interest in the sport of volleyball. Our club email is vbccrossfire@gmail.com, a Facebook page, www.facebook@crossfirevbc.com, and Instagram, which is maintained throughout the season. This helps keep their members and local community informed of volleyball opportunities and activities within and outside of our club. Crossfire VBC donates money and/or equipment to area schools, where we practice, to improve facilities and equipment for payment or in appreciation for the use of their school gym space.

Crossfire VBC offers competitive levels of volleyball within each age group, from instructional to competitive traveling teams, starting at 12U to 17s, and sometimes 18s teams. Our regional level teams compete against other club teams in the surrounding areas, from Southern WI to Northern IL area. Our Elite/Blaze teams also compete in the So WI and No IL area, with additional multi-day tournaments in neighboring states. Tournaments allow for players to apply their talents and skills in a competitive setting against other highly skilled teams, players and clubs. Most tournaments are a full day commitment with multiple matches throughout the day against a variety of teams and competition level.

TEAM SELECTION, RETENTION AND TRYOUTS

Badger Region, our state governing organization, added a new "Retention" policy in the spring of 2019, which allows clubs the option of asking some or all of their previous season players to commit to their club before the upcoming season without an official tryout. This window is in early August. Players have the choice to accept or decline this offer. If they decline, they need to go through the usual tryout process later in the fall. If they accept, they must commit to the new competition season and accept in writing. The athlete must then follow Badger Region/ USAV membership procedure on SportsEngine when they

purchase the new season's memberships. This acceptance is for the club, not a particular team, which Crossfire reserves the right to place any player on the team of their choice.

Summer tryouts started in the summer of 2024 and throughout the state, but it is optional for clubs. We start our tryouts in the summer for most of our age levels, but do not completely fill the teams. This allows for players to increase their playing ability during their school season and be placed on the team that best fits their ability and needs.

We continue to fill out teams in the fall. 12-14s (and under) travel teams are scheduled in early October. The age groups of 15-17/18s must be the weekend following the state high school tournament. Tryout days will be used to determine the teams, and athletes should make every effort to be present for scheduled date(s). Crossfire club charges a tryout fee that is paid to Crossfire VBC, where the athlete receives a tryout number and a T-shirt. Badger Region **requires** all athletes trying out for Wisconsin volleyball clubs to register with Badger Region for their USAV membership. They need a current USAV membership to participate and pay an initial \$10 USAV/Badger Region tryout fee to their organization through SportsEngine prior to any and all tryouts.

Our Crossfire VBC tryout evaluators and coaches will make every effort to thoroughly and fairly evaluate all players. We offer athletes team positions at the end of tryouts. A team offer will be emailed to athletes selected, following Badger Region guidelines, and they must accept by email by the required deadline. Badger Region has strict tryout acceptance guidelines that every club and athlete must follow. After accepting a club offer, all athletes must register with their our club on SportsEngine and upgrade their Badger Region/USAV membership. Refer to their website for these important dates at badgervolleyball.org. This is the only way Badger Region recognizes your club commitment.

Registration, payment of fees and uniform orders are received at the required "Kickoff meeting", which is held in the following weeks after tryouts are completed. This is the first team meeting for the player, their team and their coach. It is important that the player, and at least one parent, be present.

ELITE/BLAZE TEAMS vs REGIONAL/HEAT TEAMS

Crossfire VBC offers Regional teams for 12s-15s age levels. Regional "Heat" teams practice twice a week. The number of tournament dates vary for younger Regional teams from 5 or 6 dates, Jan-March. Seven or eight tournament dates are scheduled for older regional teams from Jan-March. Regional teams tend to be a good option for players with multiple commitments. Once tournaments begin, they might replace the Sunday practice. Efforts will be made to add skills clinic dates, which are optional, but encouraged, on a Mon evening.

We also offer a more competitive level for certain age groups. Crossfire presently offers "Elite/Blaze" teams at age groups 14s, 15s, 16s, 17s & 18s. These teams require an increased commitment of practices and tournaments, along with higher costs and fees.

Elite/ Blaze team season length will be Nov/Dec-March/mid April, with a combination of 12-14 multi-day and 4-5 single-day tournaments. The number of and distance to tournaments add to the higher fees and/or additional costs. We present these by mid-October and finalize in November.

All 13s-18s team players will receive two jerseys, a warm-up shirt, and a competition volleyball. 12s players will receive one jersey and a warm-up shirt. All equipment, tournaments and coaching fees are included in the team fees.

We occasionally offer positions for practice-only players on teams for a lower fee. They attend practices and may be invited to tournaments, if teams are short-handed. Movement between teams and/or levels within the club may be presented to the player and parents by the Club Director and coaches based on several reasons. Commitment or lack of, ability, and skill level changes are just a few that could create this type of change. A volleyball and a warm-up shirt are included in the practice player fees, except for 12s (no volleyball).

IGNITES DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM

Our Ignites developmental program is for 3rd to 7th graders, who have a desire to develop their volleyball skills without travel obligations. They will meet weekly on Sunday afternoons. This season we offer two six-week sessions, session one in Sept/Oct and session two is in Nov/Dec. Individual competitive volleyball skills that are introduced and guided, include: overhand serving, passing, setting, spiking, and court play.

DUES, FEES, AND METHODS OF PAYMENTS

Once a player accepts the offer to our club and upgrades their Badger Region/USAV membership with Crossfire VBC through SportsEngine, parents/guardians are responsible for **full payment of all club dues and fees, as agreed, for club season**. Accepting a spot with the club means acceptance of that financial responsibility to the club. There will be payment plans offered for all teams through invoices on SportsEngine. Each of these payments are agreed payments on dates given at the Kickoff meeting in the fall.

Failure to pay on time may result in non-participation by the athlete. If you need an alternate payment schedule, please contact Bonnie Stalker, Club Director, or Katie Kinman, treasurer. We will do our best to be flexible and accommodating for families. There are scholarships and work programs available upon request within the WIAA guidelines.

All travel, food, and lodging expenses are the responsibility of the individual families and are not covered by club fees/dues. All coaching fees/travel are included in the club cost.

REFUND POLICY

When you accept an offer to participate, you accept the financial obligations for the entire club fee* for that season. When teams are comprised, monies immediately go directly into jerseys, tournament entry, equipment and other club fees. Our club's budget is based upon the number of teams and participants per team to assist in covering the cost of coaches, practices, jerseys, tournaments and administrative fees.

Due to our non-profit status and budget requirements, we do not usually offer refunds, as a rule. We request a minimum down payment at the Kickoff meeting in the fall (Oct for 12-14s teams and Nov for 15-18s teams) or you may pay in full. We will set up a payment plan for the following months, paying a portion once per month through February. These club fees* will not be refundable for any reason, except in extenuating circumstances.

Prorated refunds will be considered for athletes who are injured during the club season, on a case-by-case basis with a physician's letter. Special cases of hardship will also be examined on a case-by-case basis. A written request must be given to our club director, Bonnie Stalker, prior to Feb 1, 2026, to be considered for these athletes.

Additional apparel purchases are separate and always optional. Any apparel purchased through our chosen vendor is between you and the vendor. We do not get involved with purchases outside of the required jersey(s) and warm-up shirts that are included in your fees. We will provide ways for you to order apparel through the vendor online and communicate with our Apparel chair.

*Badger Region Volleyball Association's Policy On Unpaid Player Dues:

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.

UNIFORM POLICY

Two jerseys and a warm-up shirt are included for all 13-18s Regional and Elite teams this season. 12s players will receive one jersey and a warm-up shirt. Numbers will be randomly assigned by the club and match their tryout T-shirt. Team jerseys and matching colored spandex/shorts/leggings, along with socks and shoes are required. Socks and shoes do not have to match in any way. We recommend court shoes or volleyball shoes, but we do not

require a certain brand or color. Running shoes are considered unsafe for court play, so please do not wear them. Extra apparel items are available at various vendors, online and in sport stores. Any Crossfire apparel and accessories can be ordered online, using our website and a local vendors. These are optional purchases.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

We encourage our coaches and players and their families to communicate with each other on a regular basis. The use of electronic communication should be kept to the realm of volleyball, pertaining to practices, tournaments, and/or volleyball opportunities. **Personal issues or discussions should not be the topic of any communication**, via the use of mobile devices (including texting), emails, and especially through social networks.

Communication between a player and a coach via electronic devices, such as phone or computer, should be kept professional and in no manner, at a personal social level. We will be using the BAND app for communication this season, so it is important that you have the BAND app on your phone. It is free to download and to use. You will receive information at the Kickoff meeting along with an invitation. Some information may be shared on the SportsEngine team page also, but that has not always been reliable in past years.

Any concerns and/or questions about playing time, coaching decisions or critiques, and/or emotional release should be avoided via these electronic methods. Refer to the Conflict Resolution Guidelines to follow appropriate procedures, if there are concerns. If you are concerned about the safety of your child or any other player, contact the club director, directly, as soon as possible.

TOURNAMENTS

Transportation to and from tournaments is the responsibility of the family. The team parent rep may arrange for carpooling, as needed. Coaches are not allowed to transport players, unless they are parents of the players.

There may be two or three-day tournaments planned for some teams. There is no expectation to stay overnight anywhere. If the tournament is a far distance, a block of rooms will be set-up for your team. We, as a club, do not require everyone to stay at the same hotel, but some tournaments require a minimum of reserved rooms at an assigned hotel for that team and club (Stay n Play events). This is on a tournament-by-tournament basis.

Under no circumstances should a player stay overnight with a coach, unless that coach is their parent. A coach should never be alone with a player at any time. Use the "3+" rule, 2+ adults and a player or 2+ players and an adult. This is for the safety of all parties. Coaches and/or team parent reps may set team meetings, give site directions and distribute schedules for tournaments.

Some actions and behaviors may result in serious consequences and may include possible removal from the club and the Badger Region Volleyball Association, such as alcohol, drug, or tobacco abuse, repeated foul language, bullying, fighting, vandalism and unlawful conduct, such as shoplifting or disorderly conduct.

PLAYING TIME

The goals of Crossfire VBC are to provide an opportunity for athletes to improve individually and as a team player, to be competitive, and to have fun. Volleyball has evolved through the years, and there is a lot to learn. This is taught through practices, position training, skills clinics and team competitions. The tournaments will give athletes the game playing experience that is vital to the development and understanding of the game as well as to apply the skills learned in practice. Athletes and parents should see growth as a volleyball player, which may not be reflected in the team's win/loss record.

It is the decision of the coach and/or club staff, to decide the line-up for his/her team and how he/she coaches each player for their skills development. Each player's role on the team is different, but all are important. We keep 9-12 players on each team to ensure repetition and quality coaching. It is our professional experience that often, the younger players are more closely matched in skill level and ability, thus it is easier to substitute players and may have larger teams.

As teams advance, some team positions, due to the nature of volleyball, will have more playing time than others. Other factors that are taken into consideration include attendance, behavior and effort in practices and games, level of performance, and receptiveness to coaching. **Playing time is up to the coach's discretion and not based upon the dues you paid. Encourage your child to talk to the coach, if there are questions about playing time, skill progress, etc.** Questions by parents and players should be brought forward following procedures under Conflict Resolution Guidelines and always away from the rest of the team, not in an email or text exchange. Do NOT wait until the end of the season to share your concerns or grievances. There is little we can do after the fact.

COMMITMENT and ATTENDANCE

We believe commitment to the team and our club needs to be a priority, a privilege and not a right. **Good attendance and positive participation in practices and tournaments is expected.** Missing practices may influence a player's playing time, but more importantly, players may lack the confidence and knowledge necessary to perform on the court. It may also cause a great deal of frustration for the player and her teammates. Commitment is a team effort, not just an individual's responsibility. Individual absences affect the whole team balance, progress and success.

Crossfire VBC has limited gym time available to them, which allows for very little flexibility. Practice and tentative tournament dates will be presented at the Kickoff meeting and updated by mid-December to assist in your master schedule. Please plan accordingly. Absences from practices and/or tournaments **must be excused ahead of time**. The player or parent must contact the coach, **in advance**, if a practice must be missed. **Do not** send this information with another player to inform the coach. It will automatically be considered unexcused. In case of injury, players are encouraged to continue to attend practices. When he/she is able to return to full participation, the player will be well informed and won't be so far behind her teammates. We also believe that there are extenuating circumstances that arise and should be discussed with the coach. There are also some situations that may be out of your control or agreed upon ahead of time between you and your coach. Communication is the key!

Follow these guidelines for missed practices:

If the coach is not notified at least 12 hrs prior to practice or 3 days prior to a tournament, it will be considered unexcused. Contact with the coach prior to a practice or tournament will be considered as excused, no matter what the reason. An illness can be last minute, but should be considerate of the coach and other players. We leave it up to the coach's discretion, as to excuse or not excuse absences.

Recommended guidelines:

Missing 2 unexcused practices, one set "benched";

Missing 3 unexcused practices, one match "benched";

Missing 4+ unexcused practices will result in being "benched" for 1/2 day of a tournament, and request a parent/player meeting to be held before or after practice;

Repetitive tardiness is handled on a case by case basis, but can be serious. Additional consequences may be enforced, such as moving to a different team, and/or be placed on probation with an appropriate attendance agreement in order to return to the team.

SCHOOL SPORT ATHLETES

Athletes who participate in school sports or other school related activities and wish to play club volleyball have an added challenge of balancing these activities. It requires a special person to be organized and committed to these activities, but it can be done. Coaches expect that the athlete be honest and open about school sport/activity conflicts, so he/she can plan accordingly.

The utmost effort needs to be made by the athlete and his/her families to commit to volleyball practices and tournaments. Communicate with your coach on a regular basis so everyone is aware of issues or conflicts ahead of time. Players may lose playing time at tournaments if practice participation is affected weekly, but it will be minimal. Honesty is the best policy!

BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS

In the event that Milton, Edgerton or other schools that we practice at, close due to weather conditions, all club practices for that evening will be cancelled. Please listen to area news and check broadcast and websites for school cancellations. Each team's coach will also contact player families. We will post any information on the club website, crossfirevbc.com, on our Facebook page or through your club BAND, as soon as we know. It is rare that a tournament is cancelled, but if travel is dangerous, most tournaments will not penalize clubs. However, we do not receive refunds for weather related cancellations.

Please use your best judgment when no information is received or available. Safety is of the utmost priority, but communicate when you decide not to attend.

FUNDRAISING and SCHOLARSHIPS

We will do our best each season to try to have opportunities for individuals and teams to raise funds toward helping defray the individual's or team cost of club dues and fees. This is dependent on players and their family's participation.

Club fundraisers can help keep the cost of the club to a minimum, to purchase equipment for the facilities that the club uses, and offer scholarships to players in need. These type of activities may vary from year to year. This season we are selling Bucky Books and it is required of all travel team families. More information will be given at your Kickoff meeting.

We also host a tournament at Milton schools, which is scheduled for January 31 and February 1, 2026, this season. We require all families to volunteer at our tournament or forfeit a stipend in place of volunteering. We are always open to suggestions for ways to cut costs and other fundraiser ideas. Other fundraisers may be scheduled at area restaurants and participation is optional.

Sponsorships by businesses are always welcomed by the club, such as, advertisement on our club website. **Donations** can be accepted as a tax deduction, since we are a non-profit organization. Individuals and/or businesses can request our tax ID number with a donation to Crossfire VBC.

If your family is in need or wishes to discuss options to "**scholarship**" your child or extend your payments, please speak with our director, Bonnie Stalker, confidentially, as soon as possible. We do not want any child not participating due to inability to pay fees. We can make arrangements for additional volunteering to defray the cost of participation. See our club director for more information or to make arrangements for volunteer activities.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

Being part of a club is a big responsibility not only for the athlete, but for the parents as well. Parents are expected to pay dues on time and make sure the athlete is at practices and tournaments, prepared to play. This may be accomplished by car-pooling and

communicating with the team's parent rep and coach, but ultimately the parent is responsible for the athlete's transportation.

As parents, you are role models for your children. **Good sportsmanship** should always be the number one priority by the player AND the parents/families. ***All players are expected to stay the full day at tournaments until the team's responsibilities have been fulfilled, which includes officiating responsibilities. Any player leaving without consent of her coach will be sanctioned by reduced playing time at the next tournament.***

All parents are expected to read the USA/Badger Region Volleyball Spectator-Parent Code of Conduct. These behavioral guidelines help to address the expectations related to being a parent and/or spectator at volleyball events. It is a commitment to support a positive environment for all players, coaches, referees and other spectators. We want everyone to be able attend these activities without concerns of negative comments or actions that can get out of hand. It is the healthiest way to encourage good competition and a positive playing environment. You will be given a copy of this agreement at the Kickoff.

VOLUNTEERING & TEAM PARENT REP

Crossfire VBC is open to adults who want to volunteer during the season. Help with fundraisers, assist the coach, be a team parent rep or as a board member are possibilities.

Volunteering as a team parent or a member of the club's board are great ways to be involved in our club. Both opportunities can be discussed with any of our board members. If you are interested in becoming a board member, please talk to Bonnie Stalker, our director. If you are interested in becoming your team's parent rep, see below, and talk to your coach at the Kickoff meeting.

At the season Kickoff parent/player meeting, each team must select one PARENT REP before the end of the meeting. If you are interested in becoming a team parent rep volunteer, then complete the Team Parent Rep form available at your Kickoff meeting. Hand into your coach at the meeting. Bonnie will be available at the end of your team's Kickoff meeting and help answer any questions.

TEAM PARENT RESPONSIBILITY EXAMPLES:

- **Liaison** between team families, coach(s) and the club's board
- **Communicate** on BAND to team families for club and/or coach;
- **Assist** in posting **team photos** on BAND page or our club's website team's page working with our board rep;
- **Distribute** handouts or information to players/parents (e.g. forms, tournament information, travel information, etc)
- **Distribute** apparel and uniform packages to your team families, when scheduled
- **Assist coach** as needed and/or requested by coach at practices or tournaments

- **Organize** team fun events, dinners and/or parties, as needed, to develop team bonding-optional;
- **Block hotel rooms**, as needed, for team's overnight tournaments in coordination with club Director
- **Assist coach** with communication on BAND or via texts/emails, as needed;
- Bring any **team/parent concerns** to the board and/or director;
- Offer assistance at club events or tournaments, as needed

CONFLICT RESOLUTION GUIDELINES

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

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 Crossfire VBC have been instructed to adhere to these guidelines to better maintain the club/player/parent relationship, which is of the utmost importance!

The procedure to discuss concerns about policies and actions are as follows:

1. The athlete should speak with the coach regarding the matter, whenever possible;
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. Please do not confront a coach directly before, during or after an event. Arrange to meet with your coach at a convenient time for all parties. It is recommended that it be scheduled directly before or after practice;
 - a. If a parent approaches a coach, emotionally, during a tournament, we have instructed our coaches to calmly ask the parent to contact you the following day, and refer our club director, Bonnie Stalker and Rachael Gierhart, coach rep, and walk away;
 - b. We also instruct our coaches not to get involved in a texting conversation or negative emails. Each of these can be misinterpreted with hidden feelings and misunderstandings, which can create a bigger problem. You may send an email that you have concerns, followed by a request to meet with your coach, in person and with your daughter/son.
4. If the matter still remains unresolved, the parent can request a meeting with the club director or board representative, along with the coach and the player. The player MUST be present at this meeting.

HOW TO BE A GREAT FAN

We are asking parents and fans of the Crossfire VBC program to:

- ✓ *encourage good sportsmanship*
- ✓ *honor and understand the commitment*
- ✓ *be supportive, but not critical*
- ✓ *promote hard work and dedication to the team*
- ✓ *not coach from the sidelines*
- ✓ *use only positive words and phrases to cheer during matches*
- ✓ *help to create a positive sports climate*
- ✓ *communicate concerns privately and directly to the coach and/or club leaders*

USAV/Badger Region Volleyball SPECTATOR/PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

You are required to read the [Badger Region Spectator/parent Code of Conduct](#), which was developed by our USA Volleyball national and state organizations. Click on the link to read. We will review this at your Kickoff meeting to make sure you understand the expectations.

Thank you for being supportive of your child, their team and our club!

If you have questions, concerns or comments, please see your coach, your team parent rep, a board member, or the club director, Bonnie Stalker. Our webmail, vbccrossfire@gmail.com is a confidential contact for Crossfire VBC.

CROSSFIRE VBC 2025-26 BOARD MEMBERS:

Bonnie Stalker, Club Director

Rachael Gierhart, Program Manager/Player Development

Erin Stalker, Systems Coordinator/Tournament Chair

Open, Secretary

Katie Kinman, Treasurer

Theresa Malloy, Uniform Chair

Andrew Liebetrau, Fundraising Chair

Melissa Scalissi, Apparel Chair