



# ***PLAYER & PARENT POLICY HANDBOOK***



Drive Nation was founded 6 years ago by our passionate owner Jermaine O'Neal who wanted to develop an elite youth sports program in the United States.

## **Drive Nation Program Directors:**

**Jacob Hanan – Club Director**

jhanan@drivenationsports.com

**Kori Betulia – Head of Volleyball Operations**

kbetulia@drivenationsports.com

**Lindsey Freeman – Youth Program Director**

programs@drivenationsports.com

## **Connect with Drive Nation:**

**Website:**

[www.elite.drivenationsports.com](http://www.elite.drivenationsports.com)

**Instagram:** @drivenation\_vb

**Facebook:** Drive Nation Volleyball

**Twitter:** @DriveNation\_DFW

**Drive Nation Athletes on the Web!** Please send us an email or tag us in team photos, action shots, or video to post on our social media.

**\*socialmedia@drivenationsports.com**



## **Applications We Require You to Use For Club Volleyball Operations:**

**Sports Engine:** <https://app.sportngin.com/>

- Club Installment Invoices
- Team Rosters
- North Texas Region (NTR) Offer Acceptance & Profile Administration

**Sports Engine App:** Downloadable app to smart phone

- Team Chat Communications
- Event Notification
- Management Reminders

**Sports Recruits** (for eligible teams) <https://sportsrecruits.com/>

- College recruitment software

## **Teams Offered through Drive Nation Club Volleyball:**

**Travel Teams:** This program is designed for the athlete committed to playing volleyball at the next level that is willing to make the sacrifices for her development, her team, and the sport. These teams will travel out of state to ensure that they play a competitive national schedule against some of the elite teams around the country. These players have athleticism and skill to compete with high caliber teams.

**Limited Travel Teams:** This program is designed for the athlete that is very serious about volleyball and has aspirations to play competitively at the high school level and potentially college. These teams will play mostly local events and if there is any travel, it will be in the State of Texas.

**Metro Teams:** This program is designed for players just exploring club volleyball and what it has to offer. Typically, these athletes are involved in other activities but looking for club experience without the same time and financial commitment. These teams only play in the DFW area.



## **Attendance Policy:**

It is expected that athletes will attend **ALL** tournaments, **ALL** practices, and **ALL** sports performance training. Drive Nation has very high expectations of its athletes and we trust that you as parent, and you as a player understand your commitment to your team and Drive Nation. All players are accountable to your coaches and teammates.

Drive Nation coaches put time and effort into planning of practice so it is vital that there is open line of communication with the athlete and the head coach.

### **Missing a Practice: Call or message your coach a minimum of 24 hours in advance if you will miss a practice.**

If something arises the day of practice, make sure you communicate with your coach ASAP. All communication should involve player, parent, and coach (per safe sport guidelines).

### **Missing a Tournament: Call or message your coach of any known conflicts for an event a minimum of a week in advance.**

If the last match of the weekend is a referee assignment, it is required that the whole team stay until work assignment is completed. This is a club rule!

### **Absence for practice for the below reason will be excused without penalty:**

- Death in the family
- Illness involving fever or vomiting
- Undergoing treatment for an injury at a medical facility. \*If injured we still want athletes in attendance for practices.
- Family emergency (as determined by coaches discretion)
- Mandatory school event

## **Bad Weather:**

If at any time practices must be cancelled due to weather, Drive Nation will make a decision by 4:00pm. We will alert coaches of the decision and have them communicate with their teams. Please make sure you are on your team's Team Snap to assist in getting updates.

## **Practice Guidelines:**

- Please arrive early for practice. If you need treatment or tape this should happen before your practice time.
- Players must wear Drive Nation practice shirts to every practice. We will have extra shirts for purchase if one is needed
- Players will need to bring their own water bottles to practice
- No jewelry
- No gum
- Bags stored with all items secured in the bag at the end line
- Players are responsible for taking care of equipment used for practice
- Balls should be shagged, ball carts should be stored properly. Clean up all trash at the conclusion of practice



## Tournament Guidelines:

- All players should arrive at the time designated by the head coach
- Players should bring their Drive Nation bag with ALL uniforms in the event something unexpected occurs that would cause a jersey change to occur
- Score Keeping: Coaches should assign work teams so that work responsibilities are shared equally
- Players should remain together as a team from the moment they arrive at the gym until the time they are dismissed by their coach
- All players should stay until the TEAMS play and referee assignments are completed
- All players should assist in cleaning of all trash around their area before leaving the playing site
- A volleyball tournament is an athletic event and food choices should reflect that at all levels. Food choices should be made to properly fuel the body for maximum output. Each coach will decide on how to handle food at tournaments for the players (group or individual). All items should follow Drive Nation guidelines regarding nutrition and hydration at events.

## Player Issues:

The team's head coach is responsible for the composition of the team and determining playing time. Every athlete will receive equal training time in practice, but we cannot and will not guarantee playing time to anyone. Playing time will be based on the coaching staff's assessment of the team and players which include the level of competition, individual skills, attitude, and the players ability to consistently contribute to the team's performance and the teams chemistry.

If a player (or parent) is having frustrations or concerns of any kind this is the protocol set forth by Drive Nation

- **Step 1:** A player should request to talk with the coaching staff regarding their frustrations
- **Step 2:** If after having a discussion with the coach your player does not feel like the problem has been resolved then the parent should email the coach with their daughters concerns.
- **Step 3:** If needed, a meeting in person may be arranged with the player, parent, and coach. All meetings must include the athlete and the only discussed items will be the documented concerns and your player.

A Drive Nation Director will be informed of any concerns and any meetings taking place with coaching staff. If warranted, a Drive Nation Director will be present.

24-hour rule: If the matter pertains to a player's role on the team or playing time, there is a 24-hour policy in place. A parent should wait 24 hours after the completion of an event before emailing the coach, if step one has already been done. A parent should never approach a coach about playing time at a tournament. If this happens an immediate meeting will be scheduled by a Drive Nation Director.

If the matter is concerning the safety and wellbeing of the player or any Drive Nation player, please alert the coach immediately. Player wellbeing is our number one priority and if there is a situation that needs immediate attention **please contact Kori Betulia @ 443-867-0389**



## **Sports Performance Training:**

Sports performance training is designed to enhance our athlete's total performance. Eligible teams are required to participate in the team's training session once a week. If you or the team would like additional sessions please contact Kori Betulia at [kbetulia@drivenationsports.com](mailto:kbetulia@drivenationsports.com)

## **Travel Guidelines:**

Players are expected to adhere to all club and team rules at all times. In the event parent/guardians, family members, or friends are in attendance, it is not an excuse to leave your team. You must participate in all team functions and team meals.

Players are required to be at and on time to all scheduled meetings, meals, and team functions. Failure to arrive on time for a team function could result in a player being penalized.

Drive Nation does not supply transportation to any tournaments for the athletes. It is the parent's responsibility to secure transportation to and from all travel events. If you, as a parent are unable to attend, please make arrangements with another family that is traveling.

### **Flight time recommendations:**

**Departure to Events:** leave the day before the event begins and allow time for flight delays and cancellations. Late arrival times in to the playing city are discouraged.

**Departure from Events:** any flight scheduled to leave before 6:00 pm is not recommended. Tournaments schedule the last matches at 2 or 3 o'clock but often run behind schedule. Scheduling before 6 could cause a player to miss her flight.

When booking flights, it has been recommended by every event to book refundable tickets due to the uncertainty!



## **Hotel Reservations:**

For all travel events, Drive Nation will work with the housing company to establish a reservation block. It is the parent's responsibility to make the reservation before the block expires. In addition, we must meet the stay and play requirements for each event. Due to Covid, the players will be staying with their parents. We are requiring all athletes to stay at the team hotel. If there is any special request, please reach out to Kori Betulia at [kbetulia@drivenationsports.com](mailto:kbetulia@drivenationsports.com) and we will try to accommodate.

Tournaments will follow "Stay and Play" policy. This means that in order for us to compete in the event, players and coaches must be staying in one of the official room blocks set up by the corresponding housing company.

Coaches will communicate curfews and "lights out" for the players. We are at these events to compete and your coaches will implement guidelines to avoid extra activities outside of the gym for your daughter to follow. These are guidelines that they feel gives your daughter the best opportunity to compete at her best. As parents please support your team by following these guidelines set in place by your coaches.

## **Social Media and Cell Phone:**

Drive Nation recognizes how prevalent the use of electronic devices and social media are among youth in today's world. For many of our student-athletes this is their primary source of communication. While we understand the value of these methods of communication we also realize it can be detrimental to the team's success on and off the court.

Cell phone and social media usage may be restricted during practice, tournaments, and team events.

Please be advised that players, parents of players, and coaches using social media to voice unsolicited comments, pictures, or personal attacks on Drive Nation, other player or parents, and members of the coaching staff or their families could result in the related player or coach being dismissed from the team.

- I will not post or message any negative comments about Drive Nation, my coaches, or my teammates
- I will not post or message any inappropriate pictures of myself or my teammates
- I will not encourage peer mistreatment through social media or any aspect of life

## **Team Shirts and Spirit Wear:**

- The Drive Nation Logo is trademarked so any teams wanting to use the logo on team shirts and spirit wear must go through Drive Nation appointed vendors. Design ideas may be submitted to vendors who will review and provide our Drive Nation logo where it is needed and then submit it back for approval. Orders and payments will be handled by the individual vendor.
- This includes anything that you want to put the DN logo on! If you are looking to get items made for your team reach out to Kori Betulia at [kbetulia@drivenationsports.com](mailto:kbetulia@drivenationsports.com) to get our vendors contact information.



## **Player Commitments:**

**Smoking, vaping, drinking, or taking drugs is prohibited at all times.**

Academics are a priority! Each player is expected to strive for outstanding academic achievement. Practice times, tournament schedules and meetings are announced in advance and players are expected to manage their time carefully and plan their studies and practice times accordingly.

All equipment must be properly cared for. Players are expected to help with set up before practice and clean up following practice. Players are expected to shag all balls at practice and tournaments.

If a player has concerns about her role on the team they should set up a time to talk to their coaches before or after a practice. This should not be done at a tournament. Playing time is not guaranteed it is earned.

Players agree to follow all travel and tournament guidelines and represent Drive Nation in a positive manner at all times. Players must report injuries and illness to their coaches immediately.

Players are expected to participate in all practices unless excused by their coach. A injury does not excuse an athlete from practice. Even a injured player should attend practice and dress for practice to listen and learn and participate in a modified fashion. This includes performance training.

Players should have cell phones off and securely in bags during practice. While at tournaments players should be engaged with their teammates and coaches not on their phones.

Players should remain with their teammates at all times during tournament play. Players should sit with their teammates during off times not with their parents.

## **Parent Commitments:**

Be supportive and cheer for all players. Respect and support your coach. Talking down about a coach to your daughter will online diminish your daughter's ability to improve under that coach.

The attitude of the players in many situations is representative of their parents. Drive Nation asks that each parent display a positive attitude at all times, including during conversations with your daughter after practice and at tournaments.

In the event that any issues arise between your daughter and a teammate or her coach, you agree to let her resolve the differences with her teammate or coach before getting involved.

Parents should encourage their daughter to talk to their coaches about concerns regarding playing time, teammates, or anything that has to do with the team.

Parents are expected to support your daughter's commitment to her team and the club by making sure she is present and on time to all practices and tournaments.

Parents are NOT allowed to schedule lessons with their coach outside of practice time during the club season. Lessons with other Drive Nation coaches can be arranged by contacting those coaches directly.



## Financial Obligation

Accounts that are past due will result in your athlete not able to participate in practices or tournaments. In addition if a player/parent becomes delinquent on club dues, a 3% charge on the monthly balance will be assessed. In addition, injuries do not alleviate your obligation to pay club dues.

If you have any financial questions please direct them to Kori Betulia at [kbetulia@drivenationsports.com](mailto:kbetulia@drivenationsports.com)

## Club Communications

Jacob Hanan:

- Tournament Questions
- Uniform Sizing
- General questions/concerns
- Recruiting

Kori Betulia:

- Financials
- Invoices
- Hotels/Travel
- Apparel questions

Lindsey Freeman:

- Youth programs
- USAV membership
- Sports Engine assistance such as rostering

Social Media

- [socialmedia@drivenationsports.com](mailto:socialmedia@drivenationsports.com)