

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS RELATED TO TRAVEL SEASON, TOURNAMENTS AND COVID-19

USAV states that **“All USAV sanctioned activities will be required to adhere to the most stringent federal, state, or local guideline for their respective areas. USAV insurance coverage will only be provided for activities that are allowed under such government directives.”** So yes, activities can resume, but ONLY if the corresponding state and government have reached the allowing step in their reopening plans. So, for those states who are not as far along in the process, returning to practice or play still isn't an option. – May 15, 2020.

Can we play at larger tournaments?

The St. James is looking to host tournaments, which our team will attend, and we can ensure the procedures you have witnessed in our High School League, program, clinics and tryouts will be implemented for our tournaments we host. We are following all the state and local guidelines as well as the recommendations by USA Volleyball.

We have been in contact with other larger tournament hosts and know they are working to ensure their tournaments meet their local and state guidelines as well as the USA Volleyball guidelines. We cannot control other groups or venues but so far, the ones we are looking to attend are implementing the USA Volleyball Guidelines.

We will continue to provide our guidelines to all participants for activities at our venue and will ask and pass on the guidelines provided by other venues/tournaments not at our facility.

Are spectators allowed at tryouts, practices and tournaments?

We do not have a simple and standard answer to this question, and it is likely to change based on state and local guidelines as we continue to navigate through the pandemic. Each venue and tournament will have their own rules and guidelines based on the layout, capacity and ability to implement the guidelines from their state and local governments as well as USA Volleyball.

Some tournament hosts including the St. James are looking to implement an online viewing option for spectators. We don't know right now and may not know until closer time what the policy will be related to spectators as this entire pandemic is a very fluid and ever-changing situation.

The St. James may have a different policy related to spectators based on the number of participants and space in which the activity will occur. For example, at this time due to the volume of participants and our inability to ensure social distancing and other guidelines, we do not allow spectators to the Friday Night High School League where we have 9 courts going with 110 participants and no room for seating and social distancing to accommodate spectators. We can allow spectators at our clinics which are limited to 45-60 participants and only 4-6 courts being utilized.

WE absolutely need spectators to abide by and honor the times when we CANNOT allow spectators. We are doing so for everyone's safety and to remain compliant with all guidelines.

What about tournaments that require stay to play or a hotel stay?

We do have some multiday tournaments in which families may need or want to stay overnight. We have not heard whether tournaments that historically have been “stay to play” will be so this year. It seems it is doubtful to have that requirement.

Our current policy is to allow parents to decide whether they will drive to and from or make overnight reservations. We will book hotel rooms for our coaches as before and the cost is already in our club fees. Families will need to make their own reservations and at this time we are not requiring a stay at a specific hotel. If that policy changes per tournament we will communicate with the teams.

What if a coach or player gets sick?

Our travel season spans over a long period of time and through the cold and flu season. We always have players and coaches miss practices and tournaments for many reasons such as injury, illness, trips, schoolwork, family emergencies, SAT's, etc. throughout the season. We have several float coaches who not only fill in for practices but also tournaments when needed. We had a policy last year and will continue to have the same policy related to exceptions for players who are unable to finish a season due to injury and certainly for any prolonged illness. They are addressed on a case by case basis.

What if we are unable to attend a tournament or our season is shut down again?

On our www.thestjamesvolleyball.com website under the Club Fees tab you will find the total cost per team, deposit required when you accept your offer on a team and the monthly payment due for the next 6 months (Dec-May).

- Deposits for both Boys and Girls teams will NOT be refunded as those funds are used to purchase player uniforms, pay coaches, court cost, and administrative costs. Both Boys and Girls practices will start prior to the first monthly payment and therefore the fees listed must be covered.
- If we were forced to shut down in December BUT were able to practice in November, the Boys and Girls December 15th payment would still be due and NOT refunded or credited since practices would have occurred in November and the fees cover the coaches pay, court cost, and administrative costs through November.
- Each monthly payment is for the prior month's costs. Therefore, should we be unable to participate in a tournament, a credit for any tournament fees refunded to the club as well as coaches hotel and transportation cost would all be credited (decreasing the amount owed in the next month) in the next month's invoice/payment due unless we are able to replace the tournament with another tournament. For example, if CHRVA Regionals for girls and boys is in April 2021 and are cancelled, we would decrease the May payment due by the amount of tournament fees and coaches pay and expenses for that tournament. If the normal monthly payment is \$400 for May you may only be invoiced for \$350 for the May payment as you receive the credit for your share of the tournament fee, coaches pay and expenses.
- Since payments this season are made after the expenses are incurred, we should not have to issue any refunds or credits this season.

Why the increase in Boys Fees this season?

The increase this season over last season is due to the following reasons:

- The agreement with Arlington Elite when they became the St. James in the 2018-2019 season was a \$300 increase annually for 3 years. This is the 3rd year.
- This year uniforms are included in fees where last year you had to pay for them out of pocket
- This year we are starting practices prior to November 1st and needed to account for the added court usage for the additional practice weeks at the beginning of the season.
- ALL boys teams are going to Nationals and the fees for coaches are included in the increase along with the additional court usage for the practices for all teams leading up to Nationals.

** Should a team earn a Bid to Nationals, we will credit the next invoice due for those teams to reflect a lower payment due to not having to pay for the Nationals Registration fee. Usually the fee is around \$1,000 so divided over 14 players it would be approximately \$71 a person.