



Jr. Spartan Volleyball

Handbook

MISSION STATEMENT:

Brookfield Jr. Spartan Volleyball is an independent volunteer run organization. We strive to develop the individual physical, mental, and emotional talents of 5th through 8th grade girls and boys in our volleyball program. Through sportsmanship, team competition and fun we encourage responsibility, compassion and excellence in all aspects of performance, both on and off the volleyball court.

ORGANIZATION GOALS:

- ❖ To promote and develop players for the Brookfield East High School volleyball programs
- ❖ Provide a safe environment for the development of fundamental volleyball skills
- ❖ Model and expect outstanding sportsmanship both on and off the court
- ❖ Stress the importance of team and teamwork while promoting a positive experience
- ❖ Help foster a social network and friendships among the participants and their parents
- ❖ To proudly represent Brookfield East High School and the Brookfield Jr. Spartan Volleyball program
- ❖ Have FUN

TEAM STRUCTURE:

The backbone of our program is our dedicated Board and coaching staff. Each coach must be 100% committed to teaching the highest level of volleyball to our participants. The goal is to improve players each year. Coaches will emphasize volleyball fundamentals. Each team will consist of one head coach, one parent assistant coach, and one team manager(if warranted). The head coaches will have an experienced coaching background and will receive compensation. The Board will review each coach's credentials before selecting them. Coaches will be required to attend a coaching clinic sponsored by GMPL / Jr Spartans Volleyball prior to the beginning of the season. All coaches (head and assistant) will be required to pass a background check, paid for by the club, before the season starts. Coaches must adhere to the club's playing time guidelines.

- ❖ Head Coaches – Responsible for the training, well-being and leadership of the team. Ensures that all practices are well organized and that all participants are trained in the position for which they are best suited. The Head coach is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the team, keeping in mind the welfare and safety of all players. Head coaches are expected to be at every practice and games and, when unable to attend, to coordinate so that the assistant coaches attend and supervise. Head coaches are expected to have a strong understanding of the entire game of volleyball and to be well versed in the philosophies, systems and plans of the Brookfield East High School Volleyball program and to teach the fundamentals of such program. They will be the main source of communication with the Asst. Coach, Manager, and parents. They are also required to attend the coach's clinic and pass a background check.

- ❖ Assistant Coach – Assist the Head coach in all operations of the team. They are expected to attend all games and most practices. They are also required to attend the coach's clinic and pass a background check.
- ❖ Team Manager (on a team by team basis as needed) – Responsible for keeping in continuous contact with the coaches and parents. They are responsible for informing their team of all practice times, game times, team meetings and their respective locations and team bonding activities. The manager is also responsible for setting up parental volunteers for the line judging and scorekeeping duties for each match if needed. They will be responsible for keeping track of the parental volunteers and notify the Director if a family is not fulfilling their duties. They will also pass along the team roster and any announcements from the coach. They will be the lead person in the acquisition and disbursement of the team socks and verify that all medical forms, membership cards, and Code of Conduct forms have been signed and turned in.

REGISTRATION:

Players must register every season, regardless of whether they had played the previous year. A parent/guardian must complete a registration form, concussion form, code of conduct and waiver of liability before a player is allowed to attend the assessment/tryout day. Included on the registration form is a request for information about the player's home information, an email, and contact phone number. We require payment for the season with registration.

REGISTRATION FEES:

Brookfield East Jr Spartan Volleyball requires each participant to pay a fee. The fee will be set annually for each season. Payment is due with registration materials for all grades. A spot will not be held without payment and will be given to the next on the waitlist. The fee covers Game play weekends, league costs, practice equipment, team volleyballs, one uniform per player, team libero jerseys, coaches' fees, background checks and registration fees for all coaches, gym rental (if needed), insurance and club administration costs. A full refund is possible **before** June 15th. After June 15th, there will be no refunds issued unless your child does not make a team.

UNIFORMS:

Uniform shirts, and Libero uniform shirt (one per team) are factored into the registration fee. Family is responsible to provide knee pads, black volleyball spandex/shorts and shoes.

ASSESSMENTS:

Assessments will take place in Spring. Teams for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades will be assigned based on assessments with a split into A,B,C and/or combined teams. An athlete must attend the assessment date in order to be placed on an A-level team. We will do our best every season to allow all players registered for the program to have a spot on a team. Since numbers fluctuate each season there may be

too many children or not enough children to make a full teams. We will do our best to accommodate all children's skill levels and place them on an appropriate team. Some children may be asked to play up on a higher grade level team. After every attempt is made to secure a spot on a team has failed, the child and parent might be notified that it is not a fit this season. A full refund will be issued to the parent and the cost of the uniform will be absorbed by the club. 5th grade cut off will be based on the first 33 athletes registered with assessments being used to place them on to specific teams. No cuts are made for 5th graders.

Splitting children into specific teams is a difficult task. Things that will be taken into consideration are skills, experience, position specific play, attitude, and teamwork. All head coaches will be in constant communication with the Club Director. Together they will make decisions on what is best for each individual team and the overall club. Examples of this are (but not limited to): evenly split teams vs A/B team or combined grade level team. Although parent input is always welcome, parents will not have a say on what team their child is placed on. If a child is offered a spot on a team that they chose not to accept, no refund will be issued.

PRACTICES:

Practices will be determined by late May. They will be held at Dixon Elementary , and Pilgrim Park Middle School. Teams will typically practice twice a week for 1 ½ hours. The practices will be determined based on the coach's schedule and availability. Due to gym availability, there may be cancellations. If a practice needs to be canceled, the team manager or coach will inform all players and parents. If a player is unable to attend a practice, they must inform the coach as soon as possible. Failure to attend practice will affect play-time during game days.

MATCHES & TOURNAMENTS:

Coaches are provided league schedules as soon as they become available. They will communicate this schedule to the team, via the manager. Please note that the league schedule is created by the GMPL, not Jr Spartans Volleyball. Matches may be played on Saturday or Sunday.

24-HOUR RULE:

This rule is applicable when something happens at a game or practice that you are upset with and you want to talk to the coach. You must wait 24 hours before you discuss your concern or issue with the coach so all parties involved are calm and away from the game environment and in a private atmosphere. If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your discussion you make take your concern to the Director of Coaching or the President.

PLAYING TIME

Play time during games is based on practice attendance, code of conduct infractions, attitude, disciplinary issues, and/or court positions.. Play time may be adjusted per the coach's discretion based on the previous listed items. The playtime guidelines are as follows:

- ❖ 5th grade (ALL Teams) – Balanced play with coaches discretion for 3rd set tiebreaks or championship play
- ❖ 6th grade (All Teams) – Balanced play with coaches discretion for 3rd set tiebreaks or championship play
- ❖ 7th grade (Red/White Teams) – Balanced play with coaches discretion for 3rd set tiebreaks or championship play
- ❖ 8th grade (Red/White Teams) – Balanced play with coaches discretion for 3rd set tiebreaks or championship play
- ❖ 7th and 8th grade (Navy) – Coach's discretion - All kids will play, but equal playing time is not guaranteed

If a player or parent has questions regarding their playtime, they should first discuss this with the coach after 24 hours. If no resolution is reached, a meeting may be scheduled to include the Club Director

COMMUNICATION:

The club operates a website, jrspartansvolleyball.com where important information about the club is posted periodically including practice schedules, tournament times, all necessary forms, and special announcements. Communication, pictures, and events can also be found on our Facebook page. The club can also be contacted via email: be.jr.spartans@gmail.com. Board meetings are open to all parents, please contact us if you would like to attend.

FUNDRAISING:

To offset some of the club expenses and to assist with growing the program there may be fundraisers throughout the year. Spiritwear will be for sale as one of these fundraisers. These are completely optional but participation is encouraged.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Your child must be covered by a parent or guardian health insurance plan
2. You must provide or arrange for transportation of your child to and from practices and games

3. You will notify your coach or team manager as soon as possible if and when your child is unable to attend any practice or game
4. Each 5th and 6th grade family is required to volunteer at least two shifts of line judge and/or scorekeeper.
5. Be a supportive spectator toward the team, opponent, coaches, referees, and other spectators
6. Be able to accept your child's mistakes with patience and understanding
7. Respect the coaches' decisions. If you have a concern, abide by the 24-hour rule.
8. Stress academic success and good behavior, as well as success in athletics and team camaraderie.

CODE OF CONDUCT:

The code of conduct is signed by every player and parent before the start of the season.

❖ The Participant

- I will exhibit good sportsmanship at every game, practice, or other volleyball function
- I will be supportive of my teammates
- I will listen to the coaches at all times
- I will be respectful of my teammates, coaches, adult volunteers, referees, opponents and their fans. As such, I will not speak negatively of any of the people mentioned above.
- I will attend scheduled practices and games or I will notify my coach of my intended absence
- I will come to practices and games dressed in appropriate attire
- I expect a sports environment that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all times
- I will avoid the use of foul language (swear words and/or negative comments) at all times
- I will not use cell phones or texting devices during any game, practice or other volleyball function

❖ The Parent

- I am a part of the team and a role model for my child
- I will treat other participants, parents and coaches with respect at all times and under all circumstances
- I will accept the calls of the officials during an athletic event at all times and under all circumstances
- I will provide a positive example for setting the tone of those around me so that everyone may enjoy the competition
- I will speak respectfully of and to officials, coaches, parents and other players, especially in the presence of participants, at all times and under all circumstances

- I will accept and respect the decisions of the coaches
- I will abide by the 24-hour rule in addressing any issues I feel necessary with the coaching staff
- I will be honest with myself about my child's athletic capacity, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level
- I will provide positive and encouraging cheering during a game. I will not shout advice during the game. I will talk to my child after the game and when they are ready.
- I will not compare the skill, courage, or attitudes of my child with other members of the team

❖ The Coach

- I will be a role model by treating each participant, parent and opposing teams with respect and fairness
- I will expect good sportsmanship from all team members and appropriately address instances where it is not portrayed
- I will use best efforts to play each practice-attending and rule-abiding participant in all games
- I will respect the judgment and interpretation of the rules by the officials
- I will challenge each member of the team to grow both physically, mentally and emotionally
- I will help players recognize and appreciate good performances from other teams and encourage competitors when they make mistakes.
- I will show respect for opponents and do not seek to embarrass them in any competition
- I will make sure the participants have fun.

Bullying and Social Media

Jr. Spartans Volleyball Program has a zero tolerance policy towards Bullying, harassing, or intimidating actions towards their teammates or others. Athletes Found to be acting in this way could be removed from the program with no option to return.

Athletes are forbidden to do any of the following while on social media sites:

- Post derogatory language or remarks about fellow athletes, coaches, administrators or representatives of Jr. Spartans and or other volleyball programs.
- Make defaming or demeaning statements about or threats to anyone.
- Posting of incriminating photos or statements depicting violence, bullying, racism, hazing, sexual harassment, vandalism, stalking, underage drinking, selling, possessing, or using controlled substances, insinuating or encouraging the use of controlled substances, or any other inappropriate behaviors.
- Any actions that depict inappropriate, embarrassing or dangerous behaviors contrary to Jr. Spartan beliefs.

By accepting your offer to play for Jr. Spartans you are agreeing to all items listed in the handbook. Failure to adhere to these guidelines could result in suspension or dismissal from the team and organization.