

S.A. Empire Volleyball Club 2021-2022 Season Commitments of an Empire Junior Program Player

You have been selected to play on one of Empires Volleyball Club teams. We would like to make you are aware of the responsibilities and expectations that are expected while being a part of this program.

S.A. Empire Volleyball "Striving for Greatness"

Empire Volleyball requires our coaching staff to have up to date knowledge to be able to help our players succeed. Our coaches are required to teach the game on a level to encourage all players to strive to be better than they were the day before. Empires coaches will motivate, encourage, and communicate with positive reinforcement so that each player can achieve their goals.

Each player must be committed to the program that is established by the coaching staff. Our players will be required to practice and play with a competitive mind set, she is always required to maintain good sportsmanship on and off the court. Parents are required to learn the game so they can understand and appreciate the efforts of all the players. Parents please set your egos aside and understand that you will not always agree with certain decisions of the program, but we ask that you respect them and please understand that decisions will be made on what is best for the team.

Club Guidelines

Expectations for players, parents, and coaches

1. Every player will show respect to their coach, as the coach is the ultimate decision maker at practice, scrimmages, and tournaments. Players are expected to always show good sportsmanship.
2. Every coach will do their best to carry out their responsibilities to develop the volleyball skills and technique for their players.
3. Every parent will show respect to their child, other players on the team, the coaches, and the players from the opposing teams including their parents and coaches.
4. As a player you must learn to respect yourself, your teammates, and your coaches no matter the outcome of the volleyball match, which means win or lose each player is required to show good sportsmanship.
5. Perfect practice results in perfect play, you practice how you play.
6. Remember you are paying to practice not to **PLAY**, you are paying for competitive instructions and learn to compete at a competitive level.
7. Parents **must** absolutely refrain from coaching their athlete(s) or any other athlete during practices/scrimmages or at tournaments. If a parent violates this guideline, they will be asked to leave the premises. If a parent removes their child from the premises, your child will be suspended from play or removed from their Empire team, and there will be absolutely **No Refund.**

8. Parents are to encourage their child, that doing their best is more important than winning so your child does not feel defeated by the outcome of the match/tournament.
9. Players must report any illness or injury prior to practices/scrimmages or tournaments. If your child is ill, please do not bring them to practice/scrimmage nor tournaments. You must provide a doctor's note, if your child misses any of these events due to doctors' orders.
10. No player should be negative, disrespectful or give a lack of effort; this will not be tolerated. If this behavior becomes excessive, she may be asked to leave practice or be removed from the team. There will be **No Refund.**
11. There will be no sitting during practice except when warming up or given permission by the coach. Players will jog to their designated areas during practice no walking. Players will shag their own balls. Parents or other players or coaches are not to shag a player's ball unless their coach allows it. All players should always encourage their teammates. If your child is upset for being pulled out of a game and refuses to cheer on their teammates, they will not get the opportunity to go back in.

Empires Events

Whenever you attend any Empire event or fundraiser, you are required to be in Empire Gear. Practice shirts are to be worn to each Empire event. If your child is out of uniform, they will not participate.

Holidays

There will be no practice on the following breaks (dates will vary). **Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, Spring Break (depending on events), and Easter.**

Playing Time

Playing club volleyball means, you are paying for practice time not playing time. Please understand that our coaches have played the game and studied the game, so understand that they will make the best decisions for our teams. No player is guaranteed a position or a certain amount of playing time the coaches will make this determination. We understand that each player has their strengths and weaknesses. Coaches will do their best in recognizing their strengths and playing them where their strengths will show and benefit the team. No player will be given playing time at a tournament without participating in practice. Players should be respectful to their coaches and their teammates. Each player will participate in scorekeeping and officiating assignments.

Empires Practice Rules

Practice is mandatory, if you miss practice this may result in a reduction of playing time or no playing time during a tournament.

Players are required to be prepared for practice/scrimmage this includes the following:

1. Fully dressed in volleyball gear; shoes, socks, knee pads, hair pulled up, and wearing an Empire practice T-shirt.
2. Players must bring their own water bottle.
3. Cell phones should be off and put away during practice/scrimmage. Players may not be checking their cell phone during practice/scrimmage/time outs unless it is before the start of their practice or at the end of their practice.
4. No Bracelets or Rings are to be worn or any Jewelry that may be a safety concern.
5. No Gum is allowed.

Practice will start on time, if a player is going to be late, absent, or must leave early: it is the player's responsibility to inform the coach or team representative prior to the start of practice or as early as possible.

Empires Tournaments Rule

Players and parents should always show respect for opposing players, their coaches, and officials working a match. The team captains and head coaches are the only ones allowed to question or discuss a decision made by the official/referee and in a respectful manner.

Every player is responsible for knowing how to score keep and be a line judge. These responsibilities will be rotated by their coach or team representative. Every player should be mentally ready to enter the game at any given time.

All players are required to encourage their teammates, whether they are on the bench or on the court. All players will huddle up as a team during time outs and/or before the start of each match, or when being addressed by their coaches.

Players and parents are to show respect to the coaches' decisions during a tournament. If the player or a parent strongly disagree with a decision made by the coaches, please do not address this issue during the tournament. Please allow 24 hours before this matter is discussed. All concerns or issues are expected to be addressed in a calmly and respectful manner.

Players and parents are responsible for their child's drinks, meals, and snacks during a tournament. Also, they are required to clean up after themselves and dispose of their trash properly before leaving the tournament. If a player leaves during a tournament without prior notification or approval from their coach or an Empire director, they will be asked to not return and will no longer be a part of an Empire Team. Again, please be reminded that are absolutely **No Refund!**

While at a tournament, we are there to take care of business so please minimize socialization. All coaches will try to ensure each player gets playing time, however there will be no minimum playing time for each player. The coach will not discuss the amount of playing time to parents. Playing time will be chosen based on the importance of the game, the score, the attitude, the attendance at practice, and injury of players.

Consequences

Players who violate any practice/scrimmage or tournament rules may face but not limited to the following consequences.

1. sitting out part of a drill or an entire practice
2. additional exercises or conditioning

3. repeating a drill
4. loss of tournament playing time
5. early dismissal from practice/scrimmage or tournament
6. suspension
7. dismissal from the team

The degree of the consequence will be determined by the degree of the violation.

No player will be suspended or dismissed without an opportunity to appeal and be heard by a director.

Expectations for Players and Parents

Attendance

Players are required to attend all practices/scrimmages and/or tournaments. Parents must notify coaches and/or team representative at least 24 hours in advance in case your child will not be in any of these events. In the event of an emergency, notify your coach as soon as possible. Coaches have the discretion of limiting\reducing playing time at tournaments for a player who is late or has missed practice. All players should arrive on time and be on the court ready to play. Players are required to wear an Empire practice T-shirt to each practice/scrimmage.

No player may leave the tournament without the coaches' permission. If the team has a refereeing assignment, all players are required to stay at the court site unless told otherwise by the coaches. Each player must be registered with the Lone Star Region by September 15th; however, no player may register before September 1st. All players must attend the following clinics and attain certification: scorekeeper clinic or referee clinic and each clinic is \$25 to participate. Each team will have 5 certified scorekeepers and 5 certified referees depending on the teams. Please make sure you have attended these clinics by November 26, 2020.

Parent Volunteers

To maintain order and stay organized, each team will need a Team mom and/or a Team Representative. The Team mom will be responsible for the Teams Tournament table and contacting players for changes in practices/scrimmages, and/or tournaments. The Team Representative will communicate all team concerns to the coaches and Director. If any parent is interested in any of these tasks, please contact the director. Team moms/representatives are not responsible for constantly reminding parents to turn in their paperwork. They are volunteers, so please be respectful to team moms/representatives. Team moms do have the authority to remind players or parents of Empire rules and may need to point them out when they are being broken.

Grievance Policy and Procedures

If there is ever an issue with playing time, Empire encourages the athlete to communicate with her coach FIRST. The appropriate time to approach their coach is always before the start of practice/scrimmage. The player should communicate her concerns with her coach by asking what is expected of her so she can get more playing time. NO spot will be given to an athlete, each spot is earned.

Empires 24-hour Rule

S.A. Empire requires a 24-hour rule for parents to discuss any concerns. Please follow the chain of command when addressing a concern.

1. athlete to coach
2. parent to team representative
3. team representative to Director

Do not address a coach with any issues at practices, scrimmages, tournaments, or any Empire event. A meeting should be scheduled to discuss any concerns.

Coaches and Staff will not discuss playing time with parents NO EXCEPTIONS.

Coaches will not explain their coaching decisions. Please understand that coaches will make decisions based on the team. The coaches will make the decisions as to who plays where or when or who subs in/out among other things. Please be aware that playing time can be somewhat abstruse. It will be based on the momentum of the game, the ability of the player, the athlete's potential, but most of all the coaches' opinion. Coaches will not be required to explain his or her decision when it comes to playing time. Parents please respect the coaches and their decisions.

Hostile or Violent/ Gossip Policy

Empire VB will not tolerate any hostile or violent behavior from any parents, players, or spectators. Examples of such includes negative talking/taunting towards each other or our opponents or officials. If this issue occurs this may result in the athlete being dismissed from the Empire Volleyball Club. There will be **No Exceptions**.

It is very inappropriate for a parent or player to discuss any issues they may be having with another Empire player/parent or coach. We ask that everyone separate themselves from any gossip or negative behavior that may occur throughout the club season. If anyone has any issues or concerns, please follow the chain of command. Speaking of these issues amongst each other will only cause more conflict. If a parent is taunting or gossiping about another parent within the club, this can cause your child to be suspended from a tournament. If the issue escalates your child can be dismissed from their team. Do not discuss disagreements you may have regarding the directors, please voice your concerns to your team mom/representative.

Officiating

To be fair, all players must be scorekeeping certified. If your child is playing 16 and older, she may be required to be scorekeeping certified or officiating certified. Players are only allowed to leave a tournament after all refereeing duties are completed and they have received permission from their coach.

Empires Club Moto

“We are here striving for greatness to become better to become stronger.

We are here to encourage each other to be better than we were yesterday.

There are no Heroes on the court one Team one goal”

Parent/Player Chain of Command

1. The player should first speak with her coach about the concern. If the concern is not resolved or if the athlete feels the concern will not be resolved by the coach, then move to step 2.
2. Parent should contact the team mom/representative via email only. Parents should never address the coach. We ask that all parents follow the chain of command. We have instructed all coaches to refuse to discuss any controversial matters and to refer parents to the team mom/representative. If a meeting is needed with a coach and parent, please allow a coach 24 hours to set up a meeting time that will take place either before or after their next practice.
3. If speaking with the team mom/representative and setting a meeting with the coach does not resolve your matter, please contact the Director via email.

Payments

Empire Volleyball is committed to giving each player a chance to excel in volleyball. We do understand that a program at this level and quality is expensive in the terms of commitment time and money. Empire directors and staff are aware of certain hardships and do not want a player to be deprived from such an opportunity because of lack of funds. Empire already has a payment plan, but if an adjustment to the payment plan needs to be adjusted on an individual basis: please email the Director.

All Payments can be paid through PayPal. Payments will not be accepted at any Empire event; such as practice/scrimmage and/or tournaments unless you have arranged it with the director. There will be a **\$35 fee** for any **late payments**. Please do not turn in any money to anyone other than the director. ***No Pay No Play.***

Refunds

There are absolutely **No Refunds**. Please understand once you commit to playing on one of Empires team, you are expected to complete the club season and pay all funds due to the club. There are no exceptions. If for some reason, your child gets injured during a practice/scrimmage or tournament please speak directly to the director. If she cannot complete the season, a doctor's note is presented, and depending the duration your child has played will be taken into consideration. If you quit for whatever reason, you are still legally responsible for paying the total amount owed on your balance. Please be aware if Empire moves forward in the uniform ordering process and your child's uniforms are ordered, this money is used to pay for uniforms and practice attire and will **NOT** be refunded. Empire will start this season in November/December.

Social Media

Empire Directors and staff understand everyone's freedom of speech and expression. We understand that social media is a big part of today's entertainment and communication. However, posting inappropriate pictures/videos and encouraging violence, is not acceptable once you become an Empire Volleyball Club athlete. Everything you post is being seen by thousands of people, parents, college recruiters, and other significant individuals. Please remember you are representing yourself, your parents, your teammates, and Empire. Keep in mind what you post can affect your future. Please consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a reason to misinterpret your postings. (Pictures, Videos, Comments and any other networking.)

By signing this contract, you understand and will abide by all rules set in the contract. By signing this contract, you agree to your financial responsibility in playing on one of Empire Volleyball Club teams and you have received a payment plan, and will make your payments accordingly, and you have read and understand the refund policy the 2021-2022 club season.

Parents are required to sign this contract and give it to the team mom/representative along with the following:

1. Copy of Birth Certificate (Upon request ONLY)
2. Medical release form go online to : <http://www.lsvolleyball.org/>

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print Clearly): _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____