

LKY Volleyball Playing Time Policies and Expectations

LKY exists to provide competitive, Christian athletic opportunities for homeschool students. As a competitive organization, we do not offer a recreational program that guarantees playing time or provides equal game opportunities for all athletes. There is no guaranteed playing time in games. However, every child will have equal attention and opportunity in practices to develop, be coached, to learn, and to grow in the fundamentals of the sport.

Specifically for our volleyball program, we want to reiterate that ***there is no guaranteed playing time***. This means there should not be an expectation of playing time. At all levels, we may have 1-2 players that play the majority of a set or match (typically the setters, but not always) while the rest of team rotates through the other 4-5 positions. A match consists of the best of 3 or best of 5 sets, depending on the level. (Varsity often plays best of 5.) These are some general expectations for playing time that will characterize our season at each level of play:

Elementary School (3rd-6th) — In general, each player will enter a set at least once. The amount of time that the athlete is on the court may not be even or equal to another athlete's time on the court.

Middle School (7th-8th) — For the 7th/8th grade teams, in general, each player will play at least once in a match (not necessarily in every set) for ***most*** of the matches, but not necessarily in ***every*** match. There will be some matches that one or more athletes may not get onto the court at all. There is no guarantee of playing time for any tournament games for any athlete, even if they previously experienced playing time throughout the regular season.

High School (9th-12th) — For the high school teams, there is no guarantee of playing time at any match or tournament. There could be athletes on our high school teams who are never entered into a set or match throughout the entire season. All of this playing time is earned in practices and subject to coach's discretion. Athletes ***should not expect*** playing time as a result of having a spot on the roster.

As a reminder, LKY participates very intentionally in the world of interscholastic competitive sports and not recreational leagues. If you want recommendations for recreation leagues with equal playing time, let us know and we can help you get connected. Coaches consider skill, effort, hustle, attitude, practice, positions needed on each team, game situations, an opponent's strengths and weaknesses, the emotional/mental state of players, as well as many other factors when we decide who plays and when they play.

Comparison can sometimes be the thief of joy. If your middle school or high school athlete has a question about playing time, players may ask their coach at the beginning or end of a practice if they can talk about it. Players are encouraged to approach their coach and ask, "How can I improve on my skills so I can be a more effective player for our team and earn more playing time?" or "What areas do I need to most improve in attitude or skill to earn more court time?" Players should never talk to a coach about playing time on game days—whether before, after, or during a game, no matter the circumstances. Parents should never approach the coach about playing time. Coaches will seek to affirm and appreciate players, and players should seek to work hard, be confident, and be content. (1Thess 5:18)

Lastly, help us teach our athletes to celebrate various giftedness on our team! 1 Peter 4:10 tells us, "Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well." Not everyone will be the ace server or star blocker! 😊 To honor God with our gifts as we develop competitive teams, the best hitters *should* get set and the best servers *should* serve. This isn't selfish or being prideful, but rather good management of the resources the Lord has given us. Help us as we help teach athletes to encourage one another and to appreciate varying skills at each position and from each person!