

# SARASOTA



## Sarasota Juniors

Club Program – Parent and Player  
Handbook

2022-2023 Season

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## **About SARASOTA JUNIORS**

Sarasota Juniors Volleyball Club (SARASOTA JUNIORS) is a club volleyball organization located in Sarasota, FL. The club director, Chad Davis, is inspired by the desire from players and parents to be involved with a club organization that focused on developing our region's talent and creating a club where that talent could thrive without having to travel to play for a high-level program. By combining talented athletes with the highest quality coaching in the Suncoast area, SARASOTA JUNIORS will quickly become the premier volleyball destination in the Sarasota / Bradenton area.

## **Mission**

SARASOTA JUNIORS Volleyball's mission is to be the most complete volleyball program in Florida. We will focus on teaching the game through detailed instruction, performance, and modeling. We will achieve this by providing the highest level of professional instruction and training while combining it with an unmatched passion for youth development. We aim to transform your child into the complete volleyball player while elevating their work ethic, character, and achievement on and off the court.

## **Vision**

To become a premier destination for players on the Gulf Coast of Florida, from Tampa to Ft. Myers by offering a well-rounded and efficient approach to athlete development and college recruiting. Our focus is on player development, national championships, college placement, youth development, and a positive family experience.

## **Administration and Contacts**

Club Director:

### **Chad Davis**

Will lead all club operations, focusing on athletes and families, maintaining a presence in our community through marketing opportunities and social media. Will lead on securing facilities for practices and events. Will lead the programming for all practices, skill, and staff development. Will organize and run a Mini Club program to begin developing strong fundamentals from an early age. Will assist in all club operations and administrative tasks such as, but not limited to, roster submissions, tournament entries, player registrations, etc.

Full bios for each of our coaches will be available at [sarasotajuniors.com](http://sarasotajuniors.com)

### **Tryouts**

Tryouts will be thorough but also efficient and quick. There will be a heavy emphasis on keeping all participants safe. Our goal is to hold tryouts early, solidify team rosters, then allow players and families to focus on their high school and middle school seasons.

Every player attending tryouts will be fairly evaluated for their current level of play, potential level for play, and team role. Team placements will be made with a combination of input from all coaching staff, with the club making final decisions. We will be

making these decisions under the assumption that if you are attending tryouts, you will accept a position if offered.

Players may be added after the initial tryout date and, likewise, players might move between teams within the club if it is in the best interest of the club, team, and player. In the event that a player is unable to complete the club season at any point, the club directors have full discretion to move or add players as they see fit.

### **Playing Time and Positions**

While we appreciate that many times players have experience and comfort playing at a particular position, we strive to place players in positions that are most suited for the team's success. Likewise, playing time during matches will be determined by helping the team be successful. Truthfully, players who are more well-rounded are better overall players. Players who may have experienced significant playing time on their high school or middle school team will likely be in a more competitive environment for playing time with their club team. We expect players, and parents, to embrace this challenge and learn how to face adversity, communicate with their coaches and teammates, and become a better player overall. We expect players to convey any questions about positions or playing time directly to their coaches as a first step in learning how to advocate for themselves and improve as a player and person.

We strive to put players on teams, in positions, and on the court where they will experience success. We cannot and will not guarantee playing time in any manner. We guarantee that players will have equal opportunities in practice to play, compete, and improve. It is at practice that players earn the respect and faith of their teammates and coaches.

We understand that not every player and family will always be fully satisfied with position and playing time. However, we do expect that each member of our club remains committed to the process and have patience through that process. We expect positive reinforcement of these goals by all players and parents whether it be at the practice facility, on the sidelines, or on the team bench. Repetitive complaints that are detrimental to our goals for our players and teams will be addressed directly by club administration and may be cause for reassignment or removal from the club.

### **Player Rules and Policies**

1. Always be courteous and sportsmanlike to teammates, opposing teams, coaches, parents, officials, and spectators
2. Obey all player rules and policies, including SARASOTA JUNIORS, AAU, and USAV. If a player behaves in a manner deemed inappropriate by the staff, that player may be disciplined or expelled from SARASOTA JUNIORS. If expulsion from SARASOTA JUNIORS is necessary, there will be no financial compensation or refund.
3. Take advantage of practice and training time
4. The use of illicit substances--alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes of any kind, illegal drugs, prescription medication without consent--will result in disciplinary action and may result in expulsion.
5. Players cannot commit to playing for another club (indoor or beach) until their final SARASOTA JUNIORS tournament is completed.

6. Attendance and communication with the coach about attendance is expected. If there is a scheduled reason why a player will be absent, that player should notify the coach no less than 24 hours in advance. We understand that circumstances sometimes do not allow for this and expect to be contacted as soon as possible in those situations.
7. Players are expected to communicate directly with their coach as opposed to having parents communicate for them. This will help players gain advocacy skills and responsibility, as well as keep the line of communication between player and coach open.
8. Players are required to wear practice uniforms at all practices as well as club issued uniforms at all tournaments.
9. Players should always make sure they have water at practices and events.

### **Tournament and Competition Procedures**

1. Players will always be expected to be on the court one hour prior to scheduled game time. If the team is reffing first, players will be there 30 minutes prior. The team coach may adjust their times for players to arrive.
2. All players are required to wear SARASOTA JUNIORS issued gear and uniforms at tournaments.
3. Players should always come to tournaments with a refillable water bottle.
4. All athletes are expected to be at the entirety of every tournament. If an athlete cannot be at a tournament, they must inform their coach immediately and at least four weeks before the first day of the scheduled tournament. The coach and club director may have to make appropriate changes to rosters or lineups and early communication is integral to this. Players who do not uphold this policy will be subject to penalties (see Club Discipline Policy).

5. Players are expected to share officiating responsibilities. While officiating, all players will be present at the court regardless of whether the individual player is reffing or not.

### **Uniforms**

1. SARASOTA JUNIORS has chosen blue, white, black, as its uniform base colors. The uniforms may vary in dominant and accent colors year to year based on availability.
2. Required uniforms are included in SARASOTA JUNIORS club fees. If a player misplaces their uniform, it must be replaced at an additional cost to the player.
3. Players are expected to always bring all uniform tops to each day of a tournament in case of a position change or uniform adjustment.
4. Teams (players, parents, coaches) may not design and order their own individual or team apparel without the approval of the director.

### **Officiating**

1. Each player is expected to complete the USAV approved course in Line Judging. Additionally, each player must complete TWO more courses. These course completion certificates must be turned in via hard copy to the director.
2. During reffing assignments, players are expected to remain on the court in case a reffing switch needs to be made. Likewise, players are not allowed to leave a tournament early when the final responsibility is a reffing assignment.

### **Travel**

1. Travel expenses for players and families are not included in the club fees. Families should refer to the official tournament schedule to estimate the actual travel expenses that may be incurred including airfare, hotel costs, and meals.
2. While SARASOTA JUNIORS encourages parents to attend tournaments, it is not always possible. In the case that a player is traveling on their own, that player's parents are responsible for making arrangements with another family to monitor and be responsible for the player while travelling.
3. Players, even when traveling with family, must notify the coach if they are leaving the team hotel, in the event that SARASOTA JUNIORS is all at the same hotel. Players are never allowed to leave a hotel on their own accord without adult supervision.
4. When traveling out-of-state, particularly when flying, all players and coaches are expected to wear designated official SARASOTA JUNIORS tops.
5. When traveling out-of-state, players/families must provide the method of transportation, flight numbers, and any other pertinent travel details to the coach in writing a minimum of four weeks prior to the tournament.
6. When traveling to a tournament that is a Stay-and-Play (or other equivalent governing body), staying overnight at the SARASOTA JUNIORS designated hotel in the authorized room block for all nights designated for each team is mandatory. SARASOTA JUNIORS expects all players to abide by this policy unless written approval is granted by the club director a minimum of four weeks prior to the tournament. If a player/family chooses to disregard this policy, it will be grounds for immediate suspension and further disciplinary action.
7. Parents are responsible for providing punctual transportation to all tournament play and team events. This includes timely pick-up after tournament play or the event has concluded. SARASOTA



JUNIORS will not leave players unattended and expects parents to be ready to pick up their player at the scheduled end time.

### **Practice**

1. Practices for SARASOTA JUNIORS will be held mainly at Cardinal Mooney High School. SARASOTA JUNIORS may choose to rent other local facilities on an as needed basis as well. Once the regular practice schedule is published, any changes will be communicated through each team's head coach. SARASOTA JUNIORS will minimize any changes as much as possible.
2. Players and families are expected to leave practice facilities in pristine condition. This includes respecting the facility's equipment, not leaving behind trash, and not leaving out any chairs, bags, clothes, water bottles, etc.
3. Players are expected to be ready to play at the start of practice. This means that they should be fully dressed and equipped for practice at the designated time.
4. Players should wear alternative footwear when entering and exiting facilities. Tracking dirt and sand into the gym creates an unsafe environment for practice.
5. Players are required to wear official SARASOTA JUNIORS shirts to all practices. Three shirts will be provided to each player. Additional shirts can be purchased.
6. Players who are late arriving to practice must explain to their coach the reason for their tardiness. Consequences because of said tardiness is at the discretion of the head coach for the team. Habitual lateness will be reported to the club director.
7. Players who are injured are still expected to attend all practices unless they are physically unable to do so. This will ensure that the player is there for any instruction provided by the

coach as well as keep the player engaged with their teammates. Players who are sick should communicate with their coach about whether they should attend. In general, if there is a risk that the player may still be contagious, they should not attend any team event.

8. Parents are responsible for providing punctual transportation to all practices and team events. This includes timely pick-up practices or the event has concluded. SARASOTA JUNIORS will not leave players unattended and expects parents to be ready to pick up their player at the scheduled end time. If a coach has to wait with a player, the coach will report this to the club director. The club director may impose a fee for each minute that the coach has to wait for the player to be picked up.

## **MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES**

### **Covered Organizations/LAOs are required to implement the following athlete abuse prevention policies**

To satisfy these requirements, USA Volleyball provides these policies to USAV member clubs. Clubs may choose to implement stricter standards.

#### **SafeSport Club Policies**

1. One-on-One Interactions, including meetings and individual training sessions (Clubs are required to establish reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions, as set forth in federal law)
2. Meeting and Training Sessions
3. Athletic training modalities, massages and rubdowns
4. Locker room and training areas
5. Electronic communication
6. Transportation

## 7. Lodging

These policies shall apply to the following:

- 1) Adult members at a facility that is either partially or fully under the jurisdiction of a SARASOTA JUNIORS
- 2) Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors
- 3) Any adult authorized by SARASOTA JUNIORS that may have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor
- 4) Adult staff and board members of SARASOTA JUNIORS (Collectively “Applicable Adult” for the purposes of this policy)

## **PART III**

### **REQUIRED POLICIES FOR ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS**

The U.S. Center for SafeSport recognizes that youth-adult relationships can be healthy and valuable for development. Policies on one-on-one interactions protect children while allowing for these beneficial relationships. As child sexual abuse is often perpetrated in isolated, one-on-one situations, it is critical that organizations limit such interactions between youth and adults and implement programs that reduce the risk of sexual abuse.

#### **ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS**

*USA Volleyball, RVAs and USAV member clubs, as well as all Adult Participants, shall comply with the following one-on-one policy*

#### **A. Mandatory Components**

##### 1. Observable and Interruptible

- a) All one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor

Athlete must be observable and interruptible, except in emergency circumstances.

- b) The exceptions below may apply to specific policies, and if the exceptions apply, they are listed in the policy. These exceptions also apply to all one-on-one In-

Program Contact not specifically addressed in other policies:

- i. When a Dual Relationship exists; or
- ii. When the Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
- iii. If a Minor Athlete needs an Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant, and:
  - 1. the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Volleyball, the Region or Club for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
  - 2. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
  - 3. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with USA Volleyball's screening policy; or
- iv. In other circumstances specifically addressed in this policy that allow for certain one-on-one interactions if USA Volleyball, the Region or Club receives parent/ guardian consent.

## **MEETINGS AND TRAINING SESSIONS**

*USA Volleyball, RVAs and USAV member clubs, as well as all Adult Participants, shall comply with the following Meetings and Training Sessions Policy*

### **A. Mandatory Components**

- 1. Observable and Interruptible  
Adult Participants must follow the one-on-one interaction policy in all meetings and training sessions where Minor Athlete(s) are present.
- 2. Individual Training Sessions
  - a) One-on-one, In-Program, individual training sessions must be observable and interruptible except if:
    - i. A Dual Relationship exists; or
    - ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
    - iii. A Minor Athlete needs an Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant, and:
      - 1. (1) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Volleyball, the Region or the Club for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
      - 2. (2) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
      - 3. (3) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with USA Volleyball's screening policy.

- b) The Adult Participant providing the individual training session must receive advance, written consent from the Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian at least annually, which can be withdrawn at any time; and
  - c) Parents/guardians must be allowed to observe the individual training session.
3. Meetings with licensed mental health care professionals and health care providers (other than athletic trainers<sup>3</sup>)
- If a licensed mental health care professional or licensed health care provider meets one- on-one with a Minor Athlete at a sanctioned event or a facility, which is partially or fully under USA V olleyball’ s jurisdiction, the meeting must be observable and interruptible except:
- a) If the door remains unlocked; and
  - b) Another adult is present at the facility and notified that a meeting is occurring, although the Minor Athlete’s identity needs not be disclosed; and

<sup>3</sup> Athletic trainers who are covered under these policies must follow the “Athletic Training Modalities, Massages, and Rubdowns” policy.

- c) USA Volleyball, the Region or Club is notified that the provider will be meeting with a Minor Athlete; and
- d) The provider obtains consent consistent with applicable laws and ethical standards, which can be withdrawn at any time.

## **B. USA Volleyball Recommended Requirements**

1. Monitoring
 

If a permitted meeting or training session takes place between an Adult Participant(s) and a Minor Athlete(s) at a facility partially or fully under USA Volleyball’s jurisdiction, another Adult Participant will monitor each meeting or training session. Monitoring includes reviewing the parent/guardian consent form, knowing that the meeting or training session is occurring, knowing the approximate planned duration of the meeting or training session, and dropping in on the meeting or training session.
2. Parent Training
 

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to have a meeting or training session with an Adult Participant subject to these policies.

## **ATHLETIC TRAINING MODALITIES, MASSAGES, AND RUBDOWNS**

*USA Volleyball, RVAs and USAV member clubs, as well as all Adult Participants, shall comply with the following Athletic Training Modalities, Massages, and Rubdown policy*

### **A. Mandatory Components**

1. Athletic training modality, massage, or rubdown
 

All In-Program athletic training modalities, massages, or rubdowns of a Minor Athlete must:

- a) Be observable and interruptible; and
- b) Have another Adult Participant physically present for the athletic training modality, massage, or rubdown; and
- c) Have documented consent as explained in subsection (2) below; and
- d) Be performed with the Minor Athlete fully or partially clothed, ensuring that the breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals are always covered; and
- e) Allow parents/guardians in the room as an observer, except for competition or training venues that limit credentialing.
- f) The provider must narrate the steps in the massage, rubdown, or athletic training modality before taking them, seeking assent of the Minor Athlete throughout the process.

## 2. Consent

- a) Providers of athletic training modalities, massages, and rubdowns or USAV, RVAs or Clubs, when applicable, must obtain consent at least annually from Minor Athletes' parents/guardians before providing any athletic training modalities, massages, or rubdowns.
- b) When possible, techniques should be used to reduce physical touch of the Minor Athlete.
- c) Only licensed providers can administer a massage, rubdown or athletic training modality.
- d) Coaches, regardless of whether they are licensed massage therapists, cannot massage Minor Athletes
- e) Minor Athletes or their parents/guardians can withdraw consent at any time.

## B. Recommended components

### 1. Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to receive an athletic training modality, massage, or rubdown.

## LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

*USA Volleyball, RVAs and USAV member clubs, as well as all Adult Participants, shall comply with the following Locker Rooms and Changing Areas policy*

### A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible  
Adult Participants must ensure that all one-on-one In-Program Contact with Minor Athlete(s) in a locker room, changing area, or similar space where Minor Athlete(s) are present is observable and interruptible, except if:
  - a) A Dual Relationship exists; or
  - b) The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
  - c) A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant and:

- I. the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Volleyball, the Region or the Club for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
- II. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
- III. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with USA Volleyball's screening policy.

## 2. Conduct in Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces

- d) No Adult Participant or Minor Athlete can use the photographic or recording capabilities of any device in locker rooms, changing areas, or any other area designated as a place for changing clothes or undressing.
- e) Adult Participants must not change clothes or behave in a manner that intentionally or recklessly exposes their breasts, buttocks, groins, or genitals to a Minor Athlete.
- f) Adult Participants must not shower with Minor Athletes unless:
  - I. The Adult Participant meets the Close-in-Age Exception; or
  - II. The shower is part of a pre- or post-activity rinse while wearing swimwear.
- g) Parents/guardians may request in writing that their Minor Athlete(s) not change or shower with Adult Participant(s) during In-Program Contact. USA Volleyball and the Adult Participant(s) must abide by this request.

## 3. Media and Championship Celebrations in Locker Rooms

USA Volleyball may permit recording or photography in locker rooms for the purpose of highlighting a sport or athletic accomplishment if:

- i. Parent/legal guardian consent has been obtained; and
- ii. USA Volleyball, the Region or Club approves the specific instance of recording or photography; and
- iii. Two or more Adult Participants are present; and
- iv. Everyone is fully clothed.

## 4. Personal Care Assistants

Adult Participant Personal Care Assistants are permitted to be with and assist Minor Athlete(s) in locker rooms, changing areas, and similar spaces where other Minor Athletes are present, if they meet the requirements in subsection (1)(a)(iii) above.

## 5. Availability and Monitoring of Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces

- a) USA Volleyball, the Region or Club must provide a private or semi-private place for Minor Athletes that need to change clothes or undress at sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under USA Volleyball's jurisdiction.
- b) USA Volleyball the Region or Club must monitor the use of locker rooms, changing areas, and similar spaces to ensure compliance with these policies at sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under USA Volleyball's jurisdiction.

## **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS<sup>4</sup>**

*USA Volleyball, RVAs and USAV member clubs, as well as all Adult Participants, shall comply with the following Electronic Communications policy*

### **A. Mandatory Components**

#### **1. Open and Transparent**

- a) All one-on-one electronic communications between an Adult Participant and a

Minor Athlete must be Open and Transparent except:

- I. When a Dual Relationship exists; or
- II. When the Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
- III. If a Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant and:
  - 1. the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Volleyball, the Region or Club for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
  - 2. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
  - 3. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with USA Volleyball's screening policy.

- b) Open and Transparent means that the Adult Participant copies or includes the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian, another adult family member of the Minor Athlete, or another Adult Participant.

- I. If a Minor Athlete communicates with the Adult Participant first, the Adult Participant must follow this policy if the Adult Participant responds.

- c) Only platforms that allow for Open and Transparent communication may be used to communicate with Minor Athletes.

#### **2. Team Communication**

When an Adult Participant communicates electronically to the entire team or any number of Minor Athletes on the team, the Adult Participant must copy or include another Adult Participant or the Minor Athletes' parents/guardians.

#### **3. Content**

All electronic communication originating from an Adult Participant(s) to a Minor Athlete(s) must be professional in nature unless an exception in (1)(a) exists.

<sup>4</sup>Electronic communications include, but are not limited to: phone calls, videoconferencing, video coaching, texting, and social media.

#### **4. Requests to discontinue**

Parents/guardians may request in writing that USA Volleyball or an Adult Participant subject to this



policy not contact their Minor Athlete through any form of electronic communication. USA Volleyball and the Adult Participant must abide by any request to discontinue, absent emergency circumstances.

#### 5. Hours

Electronic communications must be sent only between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. local time for the location of the Minor Athlete.

#### 6. Social Media Connections

Adult Participants, except those with a Dual Relationship or who meet the Close-in-Age Exception, are not permitted to maintain private social media connections with Minor Athletes and must discontinue existing social media connections with Minor Athletes.

## TRANSPORTATION

*USA Volleyball, RVAs and USAV member clubs, as well as all Adult Participants, shall comply with the following Transportation policy*

### A. Mandatory Components

#### 1. Transportation

- a) An Adult Participant cannot transport a Minor Athlete one-on-one during In-Program

travel, except if:

- i. A Dual Relationship exists; or
- ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
- iii. A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant and:

(1) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Volleyball, the Region or Club for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and

(2) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and

(3) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with USA Volleyball's screening policy; or

- iv. The Adult Participant has advance, written consent to transport the Minor Athlete one-on-one obtained at least annually from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian.
- b) Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.
- c) An Adult Participant meets the In-Program transportation requirements if the Adult Participant is accompanied by another Adult Participant or at least two minors.

- d) Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian is required for all transportation sanctioned by USA Volleyball, the Region, or Club at least annually.

## 2. Shared or Carpool Travel Arrangement

USA Volleyball mandates parents/guardians to pick up their Minor Athlete first and drop off their Minor Athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.

## LODGING

*USA Volleyball, RVAs and USAV member clubs, as well as all Adult Participants, shall comply with the following Lodging policy*

### A. Mandatory Components

#### 1. Hotel Rooms and Other Sleeping Arrangements

- a) All In-Program Contact at a hotel or lodging site between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible, and an Adult Participant cannot share a hotel room or otherwise sleep in the same room with a Minor Athlete(s), except if:

- i. A Dual Relationship Exists, and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided USA Volleyball, the Region or Club with advance, written consent for the lodging arrangement;

- ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies, and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided USA Volleyball, the Region or Club with advance, written consent for the lodging arrangement; or

- iii. The Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant, and:

- 1. (1) The Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided advance, written consent to USA Volleyball, the Region or Club for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete and for the lodging arrangement;
- 2. (2) The Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
- 3. (3) The Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with USA Volleyball's screening policy.

- b) Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian must be obtained for all In- Program lodging at least annually.

#### 2. Monitoring or Room Checks During In-Program Travel

If USA Volleyball, the Region or Club performs room checks during In-Program lodging, the one-on- one interaction policy must be followed and at least two adults must be present for the room checks.

- 3. Additional Requirements for Lodging Authorized or Funded by USA Volleyball, RVAs or Clubs.

- a) Adult Participants traveling with USA Volleyball, the Region or Club must agree to and sign USA Volleyball, the Region or Club 's lodging policy at least annually.
- b) Adult Participants that travel overnight with Minor Athlete(s) are assumed to have Authority over Minor Athlete(s) and thus must comply with the Center's Education & Training Policy.

## **PART IV RECOMMENDED POLICIES FOR KEEPING YOUNG ATHLETES SAFE**

### **A. Out-of-Program Contact**

Adult Participants, who do not meet the Close-in-Age Exception nor have a Dual Relationship with a Minor Athlete, should not have out-of-program contact with Minor Athlete(s) without legal/parent guardian consent, even if the out-of-program contact is not one-on-one.

### **B. Gifting**

1. Adult Participants, who do not meet the Close-in-Age Exception nor have a Dual Relationship with a Minor Athlete, should not give personal gifts to Minor Athlete(s).
2. Gifts that are equally distributed to all athletes and serve a motivational or education purpose are permitted.

### **C. Photography/Video**

1. Photographs or videos of athletes may only be taken in public view and must observe generally accepted standards of decency.
2. Adult Participants should not publicly share or post photos or videos of Minor Athlete(s) if the Adult Participant has not obtained the Parent/Guardian and Minor Athlete's consent.

## TERMINOLOGY

**Adult Participant:** Any adult (18 years of age or older) who is:

1. A member or license holder of USA Volleyball, RVAs or Clubs ;
2. An employee or board member of USA Volleyball, RVAs or Clubs ;
3. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USA Volleyball, RVAs or Clubs ;
4. Authorized, approved, or appointed by USA Volleyball, RVAs, or Clubs to have regular

contact with or authority over Minor Athletes.<sup>5</sup>

**Amateur Athlete:** An athlete who meets the eligibility standards established by the National Governing Body or paralympic sports organization for the sport in which the athlete competes.

**Authority:** When one person's position over another person is such that, based on the totality of the circumstances, they have the power or right to direct, control, give orders to, or make decisions for that person. Also see the [Power Imbalance definition in the SafeSport Code](#). *NOTE: NGBs, PSOs, and the USOPC must submit/include categories of members/individuals that fall under the definition including specific volunteer designations.*

**Close-in-Age Exception:** An exception applicable to certain policies when an Adult Participant does not have authority over a Minor Athlete *and* is not more than four years older than the Minor Athlete (e.g., a 19-year-old and a 16-year-old). Note: this exception *only* applies within the prevention policies and *not* regarding conduct defined in the SafeSport Code.

**Dual Relationships:** An exception applicable to certain policies when an Adult Participant has a dual role or relationship with a Minor Athlete and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent at least annually authorizing the exception.

**In-Program Contact:** Any contact (including communications, interactions, or activities) between an Adult Participant and any Minor Athlete(s) related to participation in sport.

Examples of In-Program Contact include, but are not limited to: competition, practices, camps/clinics, training/instructional sessions, pre/post game meals or outings, team travel, review of game film, team- or sport-related relationship building activities, celebrations, award ceremonies, banquets, team- or sport-related fundraising or community service, sport education, or competition site visits.

<sup>5</sup>This may include volunteers, medical staff, trainers, chaperones, monitors, contract personnel, bus/van drivers, officials, adult athletes, staff, board members, and any other individual who meets the Adult Participant definition

**Local Affiliated Organization (LAO):** A regional, state, or local club or organization that is directly affiliated with an NGB or that is affiliated with an NGB by its direct affiliation with a regional or state affiliate of said NGB. LAO does not include a regional, state, or local club or organization that is only a member of a National Member Organization of an NGB. LAOs of USA Volleyball include all 41 Regional Volleyball Association regions and all volleyball clubs that are a member of those regions.

**Minor Athlete:** An Amateur Athlete under 18 years of age who participates in, or participated within the previous 12 months in, an event, program, activity, or competition that is part of, or partially or fully under the jurisdiction of, an NGB, PSO, USOPC, or LAO.

**Partial or Full Jurisdiction:** Includes any sanctioned event (including all travel and lodging in connection with the event) by the NGB, PSO, USOPC, or LAO, or any facility that the NGB, PSO, USOPC, or LAO owns, leases, or rents for practice, training or competition.

**National Governing Body (NGB):** A U.S. Olympic National Governing Body, Pan American Sport Organization, or Paralympic Sport Organization recognized by the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee pursuant to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. §§ 220501, et seq. This definition shall also apply to the USOPC, or other sports entity approved by the USOPC, when they have assumed responsibility for the management or governance of a sport included on the program of the Olympic, Paralympic, or Pan-American Games.

**Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant:** An Adult Participant who assists an athlete requiring help with activities of daily living (ADL) and preparation for athletic participation. This support can be provided by a Guide for Blind or visually impaired athletes or can include assistance with transfer, dressing, showering, medication administration, and toileting. Personal Care Assistants are different for every athlete and should be individualized to fit their specific needs. When assisting a Minor Athlete, Adult Participant PCAs must be authorized by the athlete's parent/guardian.

**Paralympic Sport Organization (PSO):** an amateur sports organization recognized and certified as an NGB by the USOPC.

**Regular Contact:** Ongoing interactions during a 12-month period wherein an Adult Participant is in a role of direct and active engagement with any Minor Athlete(s). *NOTE: NGBs, PSOs, and the USOPC must submit/include categories of members/individuals that fall under the definition including specific volunteer designations.*

**U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC):** A federally chartered nonprofit corporation that serves as the National Olympic Committee and National Paralympic Committee for the United States.

## **Grievance Policies and Procedures**

24-Hour Policy: First and foremost, SARASOTA JUNIORS recognizes that the emotional intensity of competition can have an effect on player, coach, and family reactions. It is absolutely expected that any grievance that occurs will be addressed but there must be a 24-hour cooling off period. This means that in the case of a specific event, practice, or game, the player, coach, and family will wait a minimum of 24-hours before addressing the other party.

1. In the case of a grievance or dispute, the first step is for the player to communicate directly with their coach. The player should do so at an appropriate time, preferably in a face-to-face setting. During the middle of a practice or during a match is not an appropriate time for most scenarios.
2. If the matter remains unresolved, the next step is for the family and player to speak with the coach, again, preferably in a face-to-face setting whenever possible. The family or player should contact the coach to set up a time for this meeting to occur. Players are expected to attend any meeting between a coach and family as well.
3. If the matter continues to be unresolved, the family and player may contact the club director and request a meeting with the family, player, coach, and club director. These meetings should be previously arranged and scheduled. The club director will not engage in discussions about coaching decisions. The club director will have final say in all disputes.

## **Deposits, Payment Schedule, and Refunds**

Each player and family are expected to meet all financial obligations. SARASOTA JUNIORS's budget is based on the number of participants who commit to play on each team each

season, and, as such, SARASOTA JUNIORS has financial obligations that it must meet with outside organizations as well.

Because of this, a family's financial obligation to SARASOTA JUNIORS must be fulfilled even if the player chooses to cease participation in the club at any time. There are no refunds once the player commits to the team and begins practices. However, in the event of a severe illness or injury during the season that prevents the player from being able to physically participate, the family may request partial relief from club fees in writing via email to the club director. This request should include a doctor's report that outlines the pertinent details of the injury or illness.

Additionally, the request should specifically request relief from the financial obligation for the remainder of the club season's dues. This information will be considered on a case-by-case basis and the club director will be responsible for deciding when and if a refund is appropriate. Essentially, there are no refunds, but in particular circumstances, at the request of the family and approval of the club director, future club fee obligations may be relieved.

Upon being selected for a SARASOTA JUNIORS team, at a regular posted tryout date, **there is a non-refundable deposit of \$500 (plus cc processing fee) due to secure the roster spot.** This deposit may only be refunded in extreme circumstances that would cause the player to be unable to physically participate in the entirety of the season as outlined above. Monthly club fees will be collected via credit card unless you have chosen the option to pay in full up front.

Each family will be required to complete the "Membership Agreement and Credit Card Authorization Form and the Membership Deposit form." This authorization will remain in effect unless it is canceled in writing. Likewise, families will notify

SARASOTA JUNIORS in writing of any changes to their account or credit card information at least 15 days prior to the next billing date.

In the event that the credit card payment is declined, an additional \$30 late fee charge will be added to the account. If the monthly payment plus the late fee is not made in full within 10 days of the billing date, the player will be ineligible to practice or play until the payment is settled with SARASOTA JUNIORS.

If a family wishes to pay their club fees in full, the family may do so in the form of cash or check with an additional 5% discount. If a family opts to do this, full payment should be received by the first payment date.

### **Club Discipline Policy**

SARASOTA JUNIORS and its staff have high expectations for players and parents. Those players who fail to comply with any of the SARASOTA JUNIORS Club Policies detailed in this handbook or any policies of the governing body for an event (USAV or AAU) will be subject to immediate consequences that, depending on the severity of the infraction, may range from reprimand, loss of playing time, tournament suspension, expulsion from the current team/club season, or even an indefinite suspension from joining a SARASOTA JUNIORS team in the future. The determination of the penalty will be at the sole discretion of the club director.



### Club Release Policy and Acknowledgement

- After a player commits to a team and completes affiliation with SARASOTA JUNIORS, the player is considered registered to the club.
- Each player is bound to SARASOTA JUNIORS for the entire seasonal year which runs from September 1st of one year through the USAV Junior National Championships or AAU National Championships the following year.
- In the event that an athlete/family wishes to disaffiliate from SARASOTA JUNIORS during the respective season, the athlete/family in question must submit a written request for release to the SARASOTA JUNIORS Club Director (at [Sarasotajuniors@gmail.com](mailto:Sarasotajuniors@gmail.com)) and to the Florida Region at [office@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:office@FloridaVolleyball.org). The reason for the request must also be included.
- SARASOTA JUNIORS will not consider a request for a release from the program during the season until that player has paid their entire financial obligations to the club for the season.
- If the release is approved by the club director(s), all equipment and gear provided to the athlete for the season must be returned.
- Players receiving financial assistance will not be released during the season unless they pay the full tuition fee associated with the team, including any portion of granted assistance.

NOTE: Once a female junior player has participated in a GJNC qualifying event (Regional or National), she may not be on the official roster of, or participate in, another GJNC qualifying or championship event with a different club. This is in accordance with USAV Girls' Junior National Qualifier Manual, "Frozen Player" Rule.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Player Agreement

Parent Agreement

\_\_\_\_\_ (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Sign)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Sign)

## Sarasota Juniors - Parent/Player Code of Conduct, Financial Agreement Form

As a parent(s) of an athlete for Sarasota Juniors Volleyball Club you are expected to maintain a certain level of behavior. You serve as a representative of the SARASOTA JUNIORS and the team on which your daughter is a member. As such, SARASOTA JUNIORS asks that you adhere to and acknowledge the following:

1. We (I) will strive to get our daughter to practices/ tournaments on time. If we (I) are unable to attend the tournament, we will arrange transportation to and from the tournament. We (I) understand that coaches will not transport any players to tournaments or practices.
2. We (I) will be respectful to officials, players, coaches, other parents, and spectators, including those on our team. We (I) will not involve ourselves in taunting, arguing, making negative comments, or using any foul language toward any participant on or off the court.
3. We (I) understand the consequences should our daughter be found in violation of using/possessing, selling or otherwise furnishing illegal, controlled substances, including: drugs, alcohol, tobacco or tobacco by-products. The first infraction is suspension; the second is expulsion from the club.
4. We (I) understand that coaches have final word and will be supportive of their team strategies and will not confuse my daughter with outside coaching either by myself or consulting coaches. This includes not attempting to provide instruction at any practices throughout the season. The first infraction is a warning; the second is expulsion from the facility for the season.
5. We (I) understand the level of commitment the team requires and will remain dedicated to the club and team throughout the entire season. If there are tournaments my daughter will miss, we (I) will let her coach know, well in advance of the tournament.
6. We (I) will follow the procedures laid out to address concerns with the coaches. The dispute resolution procedure is as follows: A 24-hour cooling period where no direct contact with the coach can occur until the Monday or Tuesday Practice following the tournament. If during this meeting a solution can is not reached, then a meeting will be set with the Director, Coach, Parent and Player that week.
7. We (I) will not speak poorly of or criticize our daughter's teammates behind their back or to their face on or off the court.
8. We (I) understand the financial commitment involved and agree to pay the full dues that are required, even in the event of illness, injury or quitting a team. We (I) understand that there are no refunds unless agreed upon by the club directors in the event of a season ending injury.
9. We (I) understand that my daughter is a member of the Sarasota Juniors Volleyball Club, USAV and AAU for the entire club season unless a release is granted by the club director.

We (I) have read and understand the above standards and agree to abide by them.

Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Player Agreement

Parent Agreement

\_\_\_\_\_ (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Sign)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Sign)