



ECVA

**Player & Parent
Handbook**

Welcome to Electric City Volleyball Academy!

Mission Statement

At Electric City Volleyball Academy, our mission is to develop athletes who embody sportsmanship, work ethic, and a commitment to continuous growth - both on and off the court. As a year-round volleyball club, we foster an environment where leadership thrives, competition drives excellence, and a deep love for the game unites our community. Through consistent training and unwavering support, we empower players to build confidence, form lasting bonds, and become not only skilled competitors, but also strong, respectful individuals.

Club Information & Rules

Communication

The primary form of communication from your coach or club director will be through Groupme and email. Please inform the club of contact info changes as soon as possible.

It is the parent and player's responsibility to check the team chat often for important information! This is the main source of communication and you will need to check it often!

Players should respect each other and their contributions, even if they do not get along personally. Communication between players on the court should always be positive. Please resolve any conflicts outside of practice and tournament time. Please refrain from gossiping or talking negatively in person or online about other players, parents or coaches.

Players should address concerns with their coach as needed, and coaches will aim to build strong relationships with the players and create a safe environment for discussion. When discussing playing time with their coach, players should ask how they can contribute more to the team and improve their play.

If a parent or player is upset, please wait at least 24 hours before addressing the issue, or in the event of a multi-day tournament, 24 hours after the completion of the tournament, unless it is an urgent matter not related to playing time.

If a parent approaches a coach about playtime decisions during a game or tournament, that parent's athlete will be benched immediately. Please follow proper procedures to make sure that the team does not suffer for your decision to break the 24 hour rule. This is to ensure that cooler heads prevail.

If the problem concerns playtime or player discipline, the player must approach the coach first. If the parent does not follow this procedure, playtime will be affected. At no point will other players be discussed.

If the parent still has a concern or problem, they can ask for a meeting with the club director that will include the coach, player, and parent.

Even though the club director has a final say on all disputes, the team coach will be supported with all playtime decisions.

Practice

ECVA teams practice two to three times per week, depending on the time of year. Some teams may have additional practices if the coach desires, and extra practices may be scheduled before major tournaments. Practice times or locations may change due to weather or schedules, but we will make an effort to reschedule within the same week. This may not always be possible due to gym availability.

Practices should increase individual athletes' base knowledge of volleyball skills, prepare the team for competition, and build team unity. To meet this goal, there will be rules for practice as detailed below:

- Arrive 15 minutes early to each practice to be prepared and help set up and be on the court with shoes on, on time.
- Players must wear the club practice jersey for all practices.
- Athletes are expected to prioritize attendance to every practice. If unable to attend, notify the coach on Groupme at least 2 hours before practice.
- Excused practices:
 - Illness
 - Family Emergency
 - Any school sanctioned sport or activity scheduled at the same time as ECVA practice
- Planned absences due to vacations or events require advanced notice.
- If an athlete can attend part of practice, but not the entire practice, they should still come.
- Injured athletes who can attend school should also attend practice to support the team. If an athlete is sick with a fever or a stomach bug, please do not come to practice.
- Practices during the school volleyball season will be more focused on strategy and learning the game, with less conditioning/physical practice to make it possible for the athletes to be physically fresh for their school team practices. However, coaches will be available to work with athletes on skills/conditioning as needed.
- Missing practice may affect playing time.

Playing Time

At ECVA, our goal is for every player to improve and achieve their goals. Playing time is an important concern for many players and parents and it can distract from the team's unity and success. ECVA does NOT guarantee equal playing time on any team. Club payments are for instruction during practice, not playing time.

All players do have an equal opportunity to earn playing time. That playing time is based on several factors:

- Attendance at practice
- Player's ability to perform at the necessary level for a position
- Attitude
- Past performance at tournaments and practice
- Effort/work ethic
- Importance of the match
- Etc.

Playing time is determined by the coaches and is not negotiable.

Tournaments

Players must attend all scheduled tournaments.

Competition teams will participate in 5 AAU tournaments each season, with more tournaments depending on age group and team level.

Most tournaments ECVA participates in are one day, either a Saturday or a Sunday. The one-day tournament schedule typically starts at 8:00 AM with pool play consisting of three or four matches followed by bracket play in the afternoon.

Some tournaments involve two or more days of pool play followed by single or double elimination bracket play.

Players are to be on their court, ready to warm up at the time assigned by their coach. Once at the tournament, players are not permitted to leave unless cleared by coach.

ECVA players have a duty to officiate during tournaments. All ECVA members must fulfill their responsibility. Team members must remain at the tournament site until officiating assignments are complete. Consequences will follow for players who do not meet their responsibilities. All team members will be trained in each officiating position prior to the tournament season, and all team members must take their position seriously during tournaments.

During any overnight travel, curfew will be decided by the head coach. It is our preference that all players stay with their parents or another team parent. It is the parent's responsibility to arrange travel/housing for their daughter, if they cannot attend. Coaches are not permitted to arrange rides or hotel accommodations for athletes. For "stay to play" tournaments, team members will be required to stay at the required hotel site until the minimum number of rooms is met.

Parents

All players and parents are expected to positively represent ECVA by conducting themselves in an appropriate and respectful manner to all ECVA coaches, players, parents, opposing teams, opposing coaches, AAU volleyball directors and officials.

Practices and tournaments are "open" for parents, friends, and relatives to watch if desired. During these, players are expected to be focused solely on their team and coach. Parents are NOT permitted to "coach" from the sidelines. ECVA reserves the right to close practices at the club director's discretion.

No parent or family member may approach any ECVA coach or director at any tournament or practice regarding any issue pertaining to coaching decisions, teams, or individual play. Please follow the 24 hour rule.

Our goal at ECVA is to be a positive, encouraging influence to each other and to other teams and families attending tournaments. Please help us reach that goal with your behavior as well.

Payment/Fees

A tryout fee of \$25 will be collected at the time of registration. There will be no refunds, whether your athlete makes a team or not.

A commitment payment of \$150 is due at the time of commitment to a team. There will be no refunds! If a player chooses to quit or is dismissed due to inappropriate behavior, no refund will be given. This payment covers administration costs and the cost of two practice jersey shirts for each player. If desired, parents can buy additional practice jerseys for their athlete.

Monthly fees of \$200/month will be due on the 1st of each month to pay for the following month's coaching/practice fees. If you have not paid your monthly fee, your athlete will not be able to practice with their team and it will affect their playing time. If late or missed payments continue, your athlete will be dismissed from the team.

Parents are responsible for purchasing their athlete's tournament jerseys, warmups, backpacks, water bottles, etc. for the tournament season.

Monthly fees will cover the entry fees and coaches stipends for the 5 local Montana tournaments. If your team attends more tournaments, those will incur additional fees.

Parents/athletes are responsible for their own travel and hotel expenses for tournament weekends.

Developmental Players

If your athlete does not want to travel to tournaments with the team, we will be adding up to a maximum of 5 developmental players to each team who will attend practices with the team, but will not be included on team rosters or attend tournaments with the team. Their monthly payment will be reduced to \$100.

Fundraising Opportunities

Fundraising opportunities to offset player's costs will be available for players who wish to participate once per quarter. Detailed information will be available as those times approach. All funds collected by the player will go toward their volleyball fees, aside from a small amount for items being raffled/auctioned off.

Media

ECVA may publish your athlete's photo and name to media such as Facebook, our website, etc. in addition to team finishes and achievements.