



DESERT VALLEY SPORTS @ RED
MOUNTAIN
CLUB HANDBOOK & POLICIES

**(THIS PACKET IS FOR YOUR REVIEW AND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. PLEASE READ ALL
CONTENTS HEREIN BEFORE SIGNING THE
ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM*)**

***ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM IS LOCATED IN THE FASTPASS PLAYER
PACKET**

Desert Valley Sports Player Commitment

Desert Valley Sports, L.L.C. is a competitive sports club whose goal is the development of all athletes within a team structure. We would like to emphasize that it is our job to put the team first in almost every situation. It is our desire, to see each of our athletes develop into well-balanced and successful young people through hard work and united team vision. We view team sports as a tremendous tool in any young person's growth – those without it are missing out on a great opportunity and a great experience.

Every player's attendance at all practices and all tournaments is essential to the development and success of the team. If for any reason, you are going to miss any practice or tournament or be late to any club function, please notify your coach directly as soon as you are aware of the situation. If you are aware of a situation right now, please notify your coach right now. In addition, players are required to attend practices in their entirety. Many times, drills are specifically created by the coaches that involve all the players on the team. When players don't show, come late, or leave early, it is detrimental to the entire team and their practice as well as potentially hinders the plans that the coaches may have set up during those times. Practices are to be attended by all players from beginning to end, barring any unforeseen circumstance or emergency.

Playing time is NOT guaranteed for any player at any time. The season's fees go towards training, conditioning, and skill development, in addition to all other costs associated with running a successful Club, such as facility rental, etc. All fees go towards your athlete's experience, they do not go towards guaranteeing playing time. There is no such thing as 'equal playing time.' Playing time has to be earned by every single player and may change at any given time, or even multiple times throughout the season.

Factors determining playing time will include, but are not limited to, attitude, attendance, punctuality, position, skill level, work ethic, leadership, coachability, etc. It is our goal to give playing time to every athlete during all possible opportunities throughout the season, especially if he or she has exhibited the above traits, but at no time is anyone guaranteed playing time, a 'starter' position, or any other assumed arrangements. It is the Coach's decision as to who to put on the court and when.

Once you have committed to Desert Valley Sports, you have committed to the entire season. At no time may a player leave Desert Valley Sports to participate with another Club without a written consent of release from the Head Coach of your team and Club Director. This includes Festival Fiesta, Festival Tournament of Champions (in June), or any other AAU or USAV sanctioned event.

If you are offered a position on a team with Desert Valley Sports, L.L.C. and you are unable to commit to everything stated herein on the day of tryouts, we will have no choice but to offer your position to another player. This is not in place to be 'mean' to everyone. It is in place so that all the cards are on the table and both the player and their families know what will be expected of them this season.

Desert Valley Sports Financial Obligation Agreement

By signing a commitment to participate with Desert Valley Sports for the season, you are agreeing to commit to participating for the entire season and the ENTIRE season's fees. It is extremely detrimental to the team when a player/parent decides to leave at any time before the season ends. Further, it is unfair to any athletes and their families that may have been cut from the team that could have and would have stayed the entire season.

For this reason, any committed player who chooses to withdraw from Desert Valley Sports after tryouts will not receive a refund for any fees already paid. In addition, any outstanding balances, including, but not limited to, the balance of the player's season fees that remain, will still be the responsibility of said player and/or their families. Players will also not be released to play for any other Club or team before all outstanding balances are paid in full.

The Contract Fee for this season will be the same for all teams. For ALL teams, a 'Commitment Fee' is due on the day of tryouts if your player is offered a spot on a team. The remaining fees are to be paid on a schedule, but can be paid up front if you so desire.

Cash or checks (made out to Desert Valley Sports) will only be accepted.

All regular monthly payments are due by the 15th of each month. **NEW FOR 2017-18: There will be a late fee of \$25.00 added to the monthly total for any payments that are not made on or before the due date.** There have been issues with late payments in the past, so it was necessary to implement a late payment charge in hopes of deterring delinquent accounts. If payment arrangements need to be made, it is the responsibility of the parent to contact the Club Director BEFORE the due date.

No player will be released until their entire season balance is paid in full. Should there be an unforeseen emergency or irreparable injury, balances MAY be waived at the discretion of the Club Director, but should not be assumed as dismissed without written consent.

Desert Valley Sports Liability Waiver Participant Form

IN CONSIDERATION of being permitted to participate in any way with Desert Valley Sports, LLC., and in the location of the Shepherd Junior High, Franklin Junior High and Red Mountain High School, I agree to the following for myself, for personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin:

1. WHEREAS the undersigned voluntarily desires to participate in a Desert Valley Sports, LLC. Open House, Tryout, volleyball practice (team or individual), or fitness training; and
2. WHEREAS the undersigned is duly aware of the risks and hazards that may arise through participation in said activities and that participation in said activities may result in loss of life, limb, property, or all three, of the undersigned.
3. THAT in consideration of being allowed to participate in said activities, the undersigned hereby voluntarily assumes all risks and accident or damage to his/her person or property and all risks of liability or demands of any kind sustained, whether caused by the negligence of Desert Valley Sports, LLC., its managers, its agents or employees, or otherwise; and
4. THE undersigned further voluntarily agrees that the above release shall be binding upon their heirs, administrators, executors, and assigns, of the undersigned; and
5. THE undersigned, by signing this release, hereby certifies that the undersigned has read and fully understands and agrees with the conditions herein provided.
6. THE undersigned further voluntarily agrees that they understand the nature of Desert Valley Sports, LLC. activities and within the practice or competition facilities, that they are qualified, in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate in such activity. I further agree and warrant that if at any time I believe conditions to be unsafe, I will immediately discontinue further participation in the activity.
7. FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT: (a) the sport of Volleyball in and of itself, has potential risks and dangers of serious bodily injury, including permanent disability, paralysis, and death ("RISKS"); (b) these Risks and dangers may be caused by my own actions or inaction's, the actions or inaction's of others participating in the activity, the condition in which the activity takes place, or the negligence of the "releases" named below; (c) there may be other risk and social economic losses either not known to me or not readily foreseeable at this time; and I FULLY ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL such risks and ALL responsibility for losses, costs and damage I incur as a result of my participation or that of the minor in the activity and/or within the practice or competition facilities and its premises.
8. HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE Desert Valley Sports, LLC., the practice or competition facilities, their respective managers, administrators, directors, agents, officers, members, volunteers, coaches, and employees, other participants, any sponsors, advertisers, and, if applicable, owner and lessors of premises on which the activity takes place, (each considered one of the "RELEASEES" herein) FROM ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES ON MY ACCOUNT CAUSED OR ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING NEGLIGENT RESCUE OPERATIONS AND I FURTHER AGREE that if, despite this RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT I, or anyone on my behalf, makes a claim against any of the Releases, I WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE, AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE RELEASEES from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss, liability, damage, or cost which may incur as the result of such claim.
9. WILL ADHERE to the rules set forth by Desert Valley Sports, LLC., the practice or competition facilities, events and programs, and understand that these rules are subject to addition and change for the betterment and safety of all.
10. UNDERSTAND that when an injury does occur, it is the members own personal insurance that must cover the injury. USA Volleyball does offer minimal insurance, to all of its registered members and when an injury does occur paperwork will be provided to you. This insurance does have a deductible, which is the registered members responsibility.

I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT AND HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND WITHOUT INDUCEMENT OR

ASSURANCE OF ANY NATURE AND INTEND IT TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW AND AGREE THAT IF ANY PORTION OF THIS AGREEMENT IS HELD TO BE INVALID THE BALANCE, NOTWITHSTANDING, SHALL CONTINUE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

Also, I hereby grant permission for Desert Valley Sports, LLC. participants as well as those of any practice or competition facility and its premises to use my photograph or my child's photograph on its website or in other official printed publications without further consideration. I understand that Desert Valley Sports, LLC., its coaches and/or all other participants will not, nor employees and volunteers of the practice or competition facilities publish the last names of the children in the photos at any time in accordance with keeping with applicable privacy laws. I also understand that once my image is posted on the Desert Valley Sports, LLC., or the practice or competition facilities website, or any other website including social media, the image can be downloaded by any computer user accessing the web. If your athlete can not be photographed in any way please contact the club director at kristy@dvsaz.com.

Therefore, I agree to indemnify and hold harmless from any claims related to the previously mentioned "RELEASEES" and its constituents and/or volunteers.

Desert Valley Sports Conflict Resolution Agreement

Desert Valley Sports LLC., its Director, and its Coaches, participate in a 'Positive Resolution Process' for any issues that may arise throughout the season. It is imperative that all players and their families respect and adhere to the policy and the steps outlined herein.

1. Should a conflict arise between a player and a Coach, BEFORE parents become involved, it is the responsibility of the player to approach and/or, contact the Coach in hopes of seeking resolution of the conflict themselves. This helps promote a sense of ownership within the player, as well as helps them learn to grow emotionally, and better interact with others, whether they are in an authoritative role, such as a Coach, or not.
2. If the conflict remains, or if questions are left unanswered, it is then the responsibility of the parent to become involved, and contact the Coach directly themselves. Parents should only become involved if the player has already taken the first step. If the parent is the first one to contact the Coach without the player having done so first, the Coach will ask that the player address them directly first, before involving the parent in any discussion.
3. If the conflict still remains after both steps one and two have been completed, either the parent or the player may contact the Club Director to seek help from a third party. At no time should the Club Director be the first person contacted, unless it deals with the direct safety of the player and or other players on the team. If the conflict is anything that is not an emergency, or player safety related, the Club Director will instruct the player and/or parent to first try and resolve the dispute with their Coach directly before becoming involved.
4. If the Club Director needs to be involved, it will be their responsibility to arrange a sit-down meeting between all the parties involved in order to hear both sides of the story, and try to reach a resolution or compromise of the situation. If a resolution cannot be reached, it will be up to the Club Director's discretion to take further action.
5. Should a dispute arise between a PARENT and a Coach, before the Club Director becomes involved, it is the responsibility of the parent to approach and/or contact the Coach, after a "24 hour cooling off" period and try to resolve the dispute themselves.
6. If the conflict still remains after trying to reach a resolution, the parent may contact the Club Director to seek help from a third party. If the conflict is anything that is not an emergency, or player safety related, the Club Director will instruct the player and/or parent to first try and resolve the conflict with their Coach directly before becoming involved.
7. Should a conflict arise between two or more players, it will be the Coach's responsibility to do everything in their power to resolve the conflict before including the Club Director who, based on their decision, may take further action.

RULES REGARDING SPECIFIC AREAS OF CONCERN:

1. FINANCES: Any issues regarding charges incurred must be taken up with the Club Director. The Coaches are not to be involved in any financial disputes or arrangements.
2. PLAYING TIME: Parents and players MAY ABSOLUTELY contact the coach about playing time if they so choose. HOWEVER, there are some guidelines that every person must follow; player, parent, or otherwise:
 - a. First, you must understand that you may receive an answer you do not agree with. You must further understand at the end of the day, it's the Coach's decision on who to play or not play during competitions regardless of how you feel.
 - b. It's okay to disagree with the Coach's decision, HOWEVER, It is NOT okay to tell him or her how to coach or how to do their job.
 - c. AT NO TIME will a Coach engage in any conversation that compares one player to another, or even your player with another. Conversations will be limited to the specific player involved in the dispute.
 - d. If you would like to have a discussion on what your player can do to improve and earn more court time, you are more than welcome to ask. Again, understand that you may not like the answer you are given.

3. "24 HOUR COOLING OFF": Parents and players are required to wait until the day following a competition before contacting the Coach to discuss anything related to playing time, coaching strategies, or the like. At no time will the Coaches engage in a conversation about such topics the day of, during, or immediately following a competition. This includes ALL matches played in the same day. (i.e. if a player or parent has a question or dispute about coaching strategies from match #1, even though it is the first match of the day, the parties involved are still required to wait until the following day before contacting the coach) This gives all parties involved time to reset and relax before addressing any issues. Not allowing 'cool-down' time could result in heightened tensions and emotions which is why waiting until the next day is required.
4. SCHEDULING: If a dispute cannot be resolved or handled via email, it is the responsibility of all parties involved (parents, coaches, players), to schedule a time to talk via phone or in person. At no time should a player or parent storm up, confront, back into a corner, or any other aggressive action towards the coach before, during, or after ANY practice or competition. All conversations must be scheduled and must take place no sooner than the next day, giving all parties time to regroup before addressing any concerns.

All other disputes or conflicts not stated herein, or those that may arise due to unforeseen circumstances or emergencies, are to be handled first, by the Head Coach of said player. If no resolution can be made, the Club Director reserves the right to step in and take further action as they deem necessary.

Arizona Region of USA Volleyball Parent Code of Conduct

The Arizona Region is committed to creating and upholding traditions of excellence through volleyball, focusing on responsibility and accountability. Everyone involved in the sport of volleyball is responsible for his or her own behavior whether on the court, the bench or in the stands.

Parent Code of Conduct

As a Parent, I:

- Will remain in the spectator areas during all games.
- ***Will not coach the coach on how to coach, who to put in the game and/or who to take out of the game. It is their job to coach; it is your job to support the team and your player.***
- Will respect the integrity of the officials and not advise them how to call the match.
- Will model sportsmanship for my child by treating all coaches, officials, tournament directors and players of either team with courtesy and respect.
- Will encourage hard work and honest effort that will lead to improved performance and participation.
- Will emphasize the cooperative nature of the sport.
- Will not try to coach my child during the game.
- Will encourage athletes to participate in volleyball drug, tobacco and alcohol free.
- Will attend all volleyball events alcohol and drug free.
- Will cheer for my child's team.
- Will encourage my child to participate for enjoyment as well as competition.
- Will applaud good and fair play during the matches.
- Will be in control of my emotions.
- Will learn the rules of the game to help me better understand what is happening on the court.
- Understand that physical or verbal intimidation of any individual is unacceptable behavior.
- Will be supportive of all attempts to remove verbal or physical abuse from organized volleyball activities, including language.
- Understand that conduct that is inappropriate as determined by comparison to normally accepted behavior is unacceptable.
- Will protect the ability to continue using the facility by following all the rules of the facility, such as NO FOOD OR COOLERS IN THE GYM, smoking in designated areas only, throwing trash in appropriate receptacles, etc.
- Will protect athletes from sanctions and/or suspension by producing accurate documentation.
- Will honor financial commitments.

Desert Valley Sports Code of Conduct

- Team members will display proper respect and sportsmanship towards coaches, officials, administrator, teammates, fellow competitors, and the public at all times.
- Team members and staff will refrain from any illegal or inappropriate behavior that would detract from a positive image of the team or be detrimental to its performance objectives.
- Players are to refrain from inappropriate physical contact and the use of inappropriate language.
- The possession or use of alcohol or tobacco products by any athlete is prohibited.
- The possession, use or sale/distribution of any controlled or illegal substance or any form of weapon is strictly forbidden.
- Team members are reminded that when competing at tournaments or other club related functions, they are representing both themselves and Desert Valley Sports.
- Athlete behavior must positively reflect the high standards of the club.
- ALL PLAYERS are expected and required to be ON TIME. Showing up right before the competition starts or we are supposed to leave to travel is NOT being "On Time"!
- As we understand "social media" is a major part of communication, any issues brought to our attention will be dealt with, as we see fit.

Failure to comply with the Honor Code as well as any of the "Travel Policies" as set forth in this document may result in disciplinary action. Such discipline may include, but may not be limited to:

1. Dismissal from the tournament.
2. Immediate return home at the player's and/or parent's expense
3. Disqualification from future tournaments.
4. Financial penalties;
5. Dismissal from team; and/or
6. Penalties set forth in the USA Volleyball Participant Code of Conduct, which may include a lifetime ban.

Desert Valley Sports

Electronic Communication Policy

PURPOSE

Desert Valley Sports LLC., recognizes the prevalence of electronic communication and social media in today's world. Many of our student-athletes use these means as their primary method of communication. While the Club acknowledges the value of these methods of communication, the Club also realizes that there are associated risks that must be considered when adults use these methods to communicate with minors.

GENERAL CONTENT

All communications between a coach or other adult and an athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. The content and intent of all electronic communications must adhere to the USA Volleyball Code of Conduct regarding Athlete Protection.

For example, as with any communication with an athlete, electronic communication should not contain or relate to any of the following:

- Drugs or alcohol use;
- Sexually-oriented conversation; sexually explicit language, sexual activity
- The adult's personal life, social activities, relationship or family issues, or personal problems; and
- Inappropriate or sexually explicit pictures
- Note: Any communication concerning an athlete's personal life, social activities, relationship or family issues or personal problems must be transparent, accessible and professional.

Whether one is an athlete, coach, board members or parent, the guiding principle to always use in communication is to ask: "Is the communication something that someone else would find appropriate or acceptable in a face-to-face meeting?" or "Is this something you would be comfortable saying out loud to the intended recipient of your communication in front of the intended recipient's parents, the coaching staff, or other athletes?"

With respect to electronic communications, a simple test that can be used in most cases is whether the electronic communication with athletes is **Transparent**, **Accessible** and **Professional**.

Transparent: All electronic communication between coaches and athletes should be transparent. Your communication should not only be clear and direct, but also free of hidden meanings, innuendo and expectations.

Accessible: All electronic communication between coaches and athletes should be considered a matter of record and part of the Club's records. Whenever possible, include another coach or parent in the communication so there is no question regarding accessibility.

Professional: All electronic communication between a coach and an athlete should be conducted professionally as a representative of the Club. This includes word choice, tone, grammar and subject matter that model the standards and integrity of a staff member.

If your communication meets all three **T.A.P** criteria, then it is likely your method and manner of communication with athletes will be appropriate.

FACEBOOK, BLOGS AND SIMILAR SITES

Coaches may have personal Facebook (or other social media site) pages, coaches are NOT permitted to have any athletes as "friends" on Facebook. However if a coach chooses to "friend" a parent of an athlete that is up to their discretion.

TWITTER

The Club has an official Twitter page that coaches, athletes and parents can follow for information and updates on team-related matters. Coaches and athletes may follow each other on Twitter.

TEXTING

Desert Valley Sports LLC., is allowing coaches to make the decision to give out their phone number, if a coach does not want parents for athletes texting or calling their cell phones, please respect that. However coaches will be required to provide a form of communication that they find appropriate (IE. Remind.com, Email). If a coach does give out their cell phone number , we ask that texting and/or phone calls happen during the hours of (7am - 8pm tournament days only) and (9am-8pm practice days).

EMAIL

Athletes and coaches may use email to communicate.

REQUEST TO DISCONTINUE ALL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

The parents or guardians of an athlete may request in writing that their child not be contacted by coaches through any form of electronic communications. Immediate compliance without repercussion must be granted.

MISCONDUCT

Social media and electronic communications can be used to commit misconduct (e.g. emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment and hazing). Such communications by coaches, staff, volunteers, administrators, officials, parents, or athletes will not be tolerated and considered violations of our SafeSport Handbook.

VIOLATIONS

Violations of the Club's Social Media and Electronic Communications Policy should be reported to your immediate supervisor, a Club administrator or the Regional SafeSport Contact for evaluation. Complaints and allegations will be addressed following the appropriate procedure.

A USA Volleyball participant or parent of a participant who violates this policy is subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including but not limited to: suspension, permanent suspension and/or referral to law enforcement authorities.

Desert Valley Sports Travel Policy

Desert Valley Sports LLC., prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment, and hazing, all as described in the USA Volleyball SafeSport Handbook. Desert Valley Sports LLC., has developed policies to guide our travel, minimize one-on-one interactions and reduce the risk of abuse or misconduct. Adherence to these travel guidelines will increase player safety and improve the player's experience while keeping travel a fun and enjoyable experience.

LOCAL TRAVEL

- When local travel occurs when Desert Valley Sports LLC., does not sponsor, coordinate, or arrange for travel. Players and/or their parents/guardians are responsible for making all arrangements for local travel. The team and its coaches or administrators are not responsible for arranging or coordinating local travel. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to ensure the person transporting the minor player maintains the proper safety and legal requirements, including but not limited to: a valid driver's license, automobile liability insurance, a vehicle in safe working order, and compliance with applicable state laws.
- The employees, coaches and/or volunteers of Desert Valley Sports LLC., or one of its teams, who are not also acting as a parent, are prohibited from driving any athlete to or from a tournament or practice.
- Athletes must always act on the "buddy system" when at tournaments unless being accompanied by a parent/guardian. Buddy System - always be in groups of two.

Failure to comply with the "Travel Policies" as set forth in this document may result in disciplinary action. Such discipline may include, but may not be limited to:

- Dismissal from the tournament.
- Immediate return home at the player's and/or parent's expense
- Disqualification from future tournaments.
- Financial penalties;
- Dismissal from team; and/or
- Penalties set forth in the USA Volleyball Participant Code of Conduct, which may include a lifetime ban.