



SEAWAYSMASH

Volleyball Club

Seaway Smash Volleyball Club
2019-2020 Handbook

October 27, 2019

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Seaway Smash Mission Statement

Our goal is to provide unparalleled volleyball instruction in a rewarding and safe environment. We emphasize a balance of individual skill and character development while working as a team. We strive to accommodate players' interests and abilities while creating a challenging environment for teams and players that aspire to reach their full potential. Our players will be challenged to excel, not only individually but also for the betterment of their teams and the community in which they live.

Seaway Smash Club Rules & Policies

While representing Seaway Smash, all athletes are expected to behave in a responsible manner. Determination of what is responsible lies solely with Seaway Smash Club. Any Athlete damaging equipment owned by Seaway Smash or any facility used by the Club during practices, tournaments, other functions, or a lodging facility will need to repair damages or reimburse the Club for damages in a timely manner (usually within one (1) week) before continuing participation in the Club. In some cases, the athlete may be dismissed from the Club.

Code of Conduct/Ethics

The following code of ethics applies to all club and team members which include coaching staff, team administrators, players and parents:

- Act in the club's interest. Club members will work for the common good of the club and its teams.
- Comply with the law. Club members shall comply with the laws of the leagues and tournaments for practice and play.
- Conduct of Club members. The professional and personal conduct of members must be above reproach and avoid even the slightest appearance of impropriety. Club members shall refrain from abusive conduct, personal charges, or verbal attacks upon the character or motives of other coaches, players and club members.
- Game Conduct. The professional and personal conduct of members must be above reproach and avoid even the slightest appearance of impropriety. Club members shall refrain from abusive conduct, personal charges, or verbal attacks upon the character or motives of referees, league and tournament officials or the opposing team's coach, players and parents
- Respect for Process. Club members shall perform their duties in accordance with the processes and rules of order established by SEAWAY SMASH VOLLEYBALL CLUB.
- Conduct at Club and Team Meetings. Club members shall prepare themselves for issues and concerns, listen courteously and attentively to all discussions and focus on the business at hand. They shall refrain from interrupting other speakers or making personal comments not germane to the business of the meeting or otherwise interfering with the orderly conduct of the meeting.

Athlete's Account

- An athlete with a delinquent account during the current season may not participate in tournaments until the account is paid or arrangements are made with the Director.
- Delinquent accounts may also disallow membership for the next season.
- Club fees are non-refundable.
- You are financially liable for the total cost upon written commitment to Seaway Smash Volleyball Club.
- Unless otherwise specified, you are responsible for your own hotel & lodging fees for tournaments.
- You are also financially liable for hotel or lodging cancellation fees if the Club makes a reservation on your behalf (such as at Stay & Play tournaments), if you fail to show, or you change lodging and do not cancel the original reservation on time.
- Not paying cancellation fees will go against your account and you will be ineligible to participate in tournaments until paid in full or arrangements made with Director.

Fundraising

- Fundraising is an essential part of non-profit Club.
- Participation by all players is mandatory.
- The fundraising coordinator, with assistance from the Club Director, will determine per activity what will be required of each player per fundraising effort.

Practice Rules

- Scheduled practice time is the start time, not arrival time. Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of each practice. There may be a consequence for arriving late to practice and competitions (e.g., impact to playing time).
- Early arrival is REQUIRED to setup for practices. ALL players must help setup & breakdown equipment.
- Carry court shoes into practice and tournaments and only wear them for practice and tournaments. Never wear volleyball shoes outside! This is to ensure facility surfaces remain clean and safe.
- Athletes are encouraged to bring water, in an unbreakable container, to practices or tournaments. Absolutely no glass containers are allowed.
- Cell phones are to stay in bags, and need to be on silent or turned off.
- In case of inclement weather, check with the coach for practice status.
- Athletes and parents are expected to follow other rules and expectations set by their coaches

Players Code of Conduct

1. It is my responsibility to be mentally and physically prepared to practice and play. If I am unprepared or unwilling to participate, demonstrate a negative attitude, or are detrimental to the team moral, I may be removed from event at the discretion of the coach, director, or any member of the board.
2. I will give my best effort at all practices and games.
3. I expect to have a good experience and learn during my volleyball experience, and I will alert parents or coaches if there are problems or it stops being fun.
4. I will listen and learn from my coaches and teammates.
5. I will treat my coaches, managers, other players, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of age, race, creed, color, gender or abilities, and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
6. I will attend every practice and game on time with rare exception; I will notify my coach beforehand if I cannot attend.
7. I will respect all equipment and facilities.
8. I will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike behavior with any official, coach, player or other parent such as arguing, booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
9. I will encourage my own parents to engage in good sportsmanship.
10. I will accept victory and defeat with dignity.
11. I understand the playing time is not guaranteed and recognize that certain games are more competitive than others, and that some players will earn more playing time based on the teams immediate needs, and players skills, effort and attitude at practices and games.
12. I deserve to play in an environment free from drugs, tobacco, vape/juuls and alcohol.
13. I will play within the rules of the game and engage in good sportsmanship at all times.
14. I will not ridicule or yell at my teammates for mistakes, and I will not hold them responsible for losing a competition.

Academic Standing

- Academics are our number one priority; however, homework requirements and school projects are not a valid excuse to miss practice or tournaments.
- Players must be able to manage their time in a manner that effectively allows them to complete school work to their fullest potential and still attend practices and tournaments with appropriate physical energy and mental focus.
- Athletes must be enrolled in high school or college prep program in accordance to USAV rules.
- Athletes must be in good standing academically. Athletes failing 1 or more subjects may be asked to focus on academics over volleyball.

Seaway Smash Zero Tolerance Policy

Seaways Smash Volleyball Club does not tolerate hostile, aggressive confrontations between a parent and any official, another parent, a coach, another athlete, parent volunteers, board members &/or director(s) or another team's representative (including coach(es), athlete or parent). Violation of this policy may result in the athlete being dismissed from Seaway Smash without refund.

Automatic Expulsion

Seaway Smash Volleyball Club will automatically dismiss an athlete or parent if any of the following occurs:

- Using alcohol or drugs at any time during an official function (i.e., practice, tournament, meeting, etc.).
- Leaving lodging premises without notifying coach and without a chaperone.
- Having boys in the room (other than relative) or inappropriate public display of affection.
- Approaching a coach, athlete or any other club member in an inappropriate manner at any official function.
- Harassing or abusive behavior towards other members of Seaway Smash Volleyball Club.
- Having more than 8 absences during season (subject to board Review).
- Failure to maintain financial standing within the club.

Grievance Procedures

Competitive team athletics, by its very nature, creates an environment where athletes, parents and/or coaches may not agree with all decisions made. Knowing when and how to communicate with the coach or Director is a concern for almost every parent at some time during the season. Most often, the concern is how to inquire about issues surrounding playing time.

At Seaway Smash, the grievance process that athletes and parents is as follows:

Athletes are first encouraged to communicate with their coaches. Athletes are expected to discuss issues concerning playing time or any other volleyball related subject with their coaches first before escalation is needed. Parents are encouraged to communicate with the Director only after exhausting all the recourses to resolve the problem with the Coach or Director of Coaching.

Coaches are instructed not to discuss 'coaching decisions' with parents. These 'coaching decisions' include but are not limited to playing time, substitution patterns, team line-up decisions, etc. Coaches are not required to defend his/her thought process or conclusions at any time during the season. Coaches are instructed not to engage in controversial discussions during tournaments. If a coach is approached during a tournament, he/she has been instructed to: refuse to discuss any controversial matter; to refer the parent to the Director and to walk away from the situation.

Parents and Athletes are asked to adhere to the following grievance process:

1. The Athlete meets with the coach(es) to discuss the matter. If the matter is not resolved or the athlete has a reasonable concern about speaking to the coach, then:
2. The Parent(s) meet with the coach(es) to discuss the matter. If the matter is not resolved or the parent has reasonable concern about speaking to the coach(es), then:
3. The parent and athlete meets with the Director. In certain situations, the Director may ask the coach(es) to attend the meeting.
4. The Director also may refer the grievance to the Board to review and decide on the matter.
5. If after this process the matter is not resolved, the Director will make the final decision following any information-gathering deemed necessary.
6. All decisions and recommendations of Seaway Smash and the Director are final and not subject to appeal.

The recommended time for a parent and/or athlete to meet with a coach is no less than 24 hours after tournament or practice. The exception to this rule is if there is a health issue that needs to be addressed immediately.

It is inappropriate for an athlete or a parent to approach other Seaway Smash members about a problem the athlete or a parent is having with a coach(es), about objections to coaching, or administrative decisions. For the psychological health of the teams and the Club as a whole, grievances must be handled via the Grievance process outline above.

The Seaway Smash Volleyball Club strongly promotes fairness and believes in open communication. All issues and concerns are immediately addressed with the athlete's well-being in mind.

Travel Teams

Practice Rules

- All athletes are expected to make every effort to attend every practice. Only a serious illness that keeps the athlete home from school or a genuine family emergency are legitimate excuses for missing practice.
- Regardless of the reason, if an athlete misses practice, their playing time may be affected. If an athlete cannot be at practice, either the athlete or a parent is expected to CALL the coach before the start of practice, a minimum of 1 hour before. Failure to notify coach prior to practice may result in playing time being impacted.
- The gym is closed to anyone not a player or coach. This policy is to reduce distractions to the players.

Tournament Rules

- All athletes are expected to be in the gym, ready to warm-up, at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time (or as determined by the coach).
- Athletes and/or parents are expected to provide transportation to and from tournament sites.
- Athletes are not allowed to drive themselves to tournaments. Athletes must ride with an adult responsible for their care & well-being while not playing or under the direction of the coach.
- Athletes are not to leave the tournament site until excused by the coach
- If an athlete cannot be at a tournament, the athlete is expected to call the coach as soon as possible. It is the athlete's responsibility to reach the coach before tournament starts.
- Proper conduct is expected from all athletes, coaches, parents and fans at all times.

Hotel Rules

- Players will stay in the hotel the club selects. This is to ensure players have the opportunity to bond, as well as be able to support each other.
- Hotels will be arranged and booked by the club. That means that if any issues arise, it can impact the entire team.
- If an issue occurs that results in the team being expelled from the hotel, the player(s)/parent(s) who caused the expulsion will be responsible for reimbursing those affected.

Officiating

Officiating is the shared responsibility of the entire team. All Seaway Smash athletes are required to attend a scorekeeper and referee 2 (SK/R2) clinic and help with line judging, scorekeeping, score flipping and officiating.

Coaches will establish a procedure for officiating assignments for their respective teams. While teams are responsible for officiating a match, every athlete on the team is expected and required to remain with their team, until the entire team is dismissed from the facilities.

Playing Other Sports

Seaway Smash Club believes an athlete's total dedication is essential for team success. This means that missed practices could result in forfeiture of playing time. Playing time for athletes is based on attendance, attitude, performance, the athlete's potential, the team's needs at that time, and the team's needs in the future.

School sports and activities are an integral part of a scholastic experience. However, it is recommended that if an athlete is going to miss more than 20% of practices due to other obligations, those families should reconsider participation in this volleyball program. Missing significant amount of practices does not make it cost effective for the families and makes it very difficult to build team chemistry and team cohesion at a competitive level.

If an athlete participates in another sport, Seaway Smash Volleyball Club expects her to make the Club team a priority when there is a conflict between the two sports. This means that Seaway Smash Volleyball Club expects the athlete to attend all practices, unless there is a scheduled competition for the other sport at the same time as the scheduled practices.

If a volleyball tournament conflicts with another sport competition, the coach and the athlete will decide, on a case-by-case basis.

Playing Time

“PLAYERS PAY TO TRAIN, NOT TO PLAY.”

We do not guarantee equal playing time on any team or at any event. Seaway Smash Volleyball Club’s philosophy is that its coaches are the best-qualified and equipped individuals to make 'playing time' decisions. Playing time decisions are made by the Seaway Smash Volleyball Club Coach and or/Director of Coaching. The "coaching decision" is not up for debate or question. Athletes are encouraged to ask what they can improve on to get more playing time.

Playing time for athletes is determined by:

- Attendance
- Attitude
- Effort
- Performance
- Team’s need at the moment/future

FINANCIAL SCHEDULE

PAYMENTS TO SEAWAY SMASH VOLLEYBALL CLUB

Travel Team Fees	Skills Development Program Fees
1 st PAYMENT (travel): Due: NOVEMBER 3 rd , 2019 Amount: \$225.00	1 st PAYMENT (local): Due: DECEMBER 7 th , 2019 Amount: \$100.00
2 nd PAYMENT (travel): Due: DECEMBER 8 th , 2019 Amount: \$125.00	2 nd PAYMENT (local): Due: JANUARY 4 th , 2020 Amount: \$50.00
3 rd PAYMENT (travel): Due: JANUARY 5 th , 2020 Amount: \$100.00	

The final payment may be adjusted based on fundraising contributions. If there is a balance owed, the club will work with the players and their families on a case by case basis.

All payments are non-refundable.

TO USA VOLLEYBALL MEMBERSHIP (REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE)

Due: Immediately after acceptance

Amount: \$65.00 for travel players, or \$30 for local players (paid directly to USA VB)

IREVA/USA Volleyball Registration

TRAVEL TEAM PLAYERS: COMPLETE THIS ONLY WHEN ACCEPTED INTO THE CLUB!

Steps:

1. Go to https://webpoint.usavolleyball.org/wp/memberships/join.wp?mbr_ChapterID=25967 & fill in the form & click continue
 - a. On the following form, Select "Seaway Smash" for club & Select "IREVA - Regular Junior Membership"
 - b. This is the payment form. Verify your information is correct. Enter in your payment information.
2. Submit the form & you're set!

NOTE:

When asked to review the waivers, do not open them in a new web browser tab. Left click on them to read them. Otherwise it will give you errors.

Upon completion, email seawayasmash@gmail.com to verify.

2019-20 Contract

THIS AGREEMENT made this ____ day of _____, _____ between **SEAWAY SMASH VOLLEYBALL CLUB** [Hereinafter SSVBC] and _____, the parent of an athlete seeking admission to SSVBC [hereinafter “parent”] and said athlete [hereinafter “athlete”].

WHEREAS, _____ is an athlete who seeks admission to SSVBC, and

WHEREAS, SSVBC is only viable as a club and as a program if its budget is funded, its rules observed and its practices and tournaments are attended without fail and without exception.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

1. Parent acknowledges that the consideration of this agreement is the enrollment of Parent’s child in SSVBC and the programs, practices and tournaments made available thereby.
2. Parent and athlete affirm that each will observe without breach the club policy of SSVBC and that the athlete, absent from SSVBC’s express permission [obtained from their team coach] shall attend all scheduled practices and tournaments and participate fully in SSVBC mandatory fundraising activities.
3. Parent acknowledges receipt of the schedule of due dates for fees (in handbook)
4. Parent acknowledges a binding contractual obligation to make payments as scheduled to SSVBC to underwrite the continued viability of SSVBC and its programs
5. Parent acknowledges receipt of club policy of SSVBC.
6. In the event of parent’s breach of any of the obligations herein undertaken, parent stipulates venue in the county court of St. Lawrence County and further agrees that in the event that the parent is found to be in the breach, the parent will be responsible for payments not timely made together with interest, costs, disbursements and reasonable counsel fees.
7. The invalidity of any element of this agreement shall not invalidate the whole.
8. This agreement shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the state of New York.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties have caused this agreement to be signed the day and year first above written.

Scott Wilhelm, Club Director
Seaway Smash VBC

Parent

Athlete