

Fusion Volleyball Club Contract

2023/2024

Fusion VBC

Camp Hill Sports Center
3608 Hartzdale Dr.
Camp Hill, PA 17011

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OUR MISSION

To be the premier girls volleyball club in Central Pennsylvania by providing the best coaches, training program, and administration. In order to be the most respected club on and off of the court we will:

1. Create an atmosphere where teamwork, commitment, and a strong work ethic are rewarded.
2. Challenge our players to be the best that they can be by exposing them to high level volleyball strategies and competition.
3. Celebrate our successes and learn from our failures.
4. Partner with our athletes and families to work through the college recruiting process.
5. Build a sense family within our Club and be good stewards of our community.

ABOUT

Fusion VBC was founded in 2011 and we are currently entering our 12th season serving athletes in Central Pennsylvania in the sport of volleyball. Our Club consists of approximately 12-15 teams with players varying in age from 10 years to 18 years old.

Under the direction of T.J. Shultz, *Fusion VBC* is dedicated to providing athletes of all age levels an opportunity to develop and excel in the sport of volleyball. *Fusion VBC* is a member of USA Volleyball, AAU Volleyball, Junior Volleyball Association (JVA) and the Keystone Region Volleyball Association. Through consistent and focused physical and sport-specific training the club aims to maximize all club members' potentials.

Many *Fusion VBC* athletes have moved on to play collegiate volleyball at the NCAA Division 1, Division 2, Division 3 and NJCAA levels. In addition, several former players have undertaken coaching roles in Club, High School, and College programs.

PRACTICE RULES: The focus level of our athletes is expected to be high. Other factors outside of volleyball, will take a distant second behind what we have to do on the court. Any factors that disrupt practice or the focus level of the team, or individual will not be tolerated. Just like a classroom, we require the athlete to learn and apply their knowledge to each drill, scrimmage or meeting we have.

Championship teams and their players understand the game. Each drill, technique, or scheme (defensive, offensive, etc.) requires full attention and cooperation. The athlete must know why we are executing these tasks, and understand how they apply to the game. When the team or individual goes through the motions with the minimal focus level, errors start to occur, greatly increasing our chance of failure. Our team and program will have the edge over teams and players that do not understand the game. We must focus in practice.

- Practices ARE MANDATORY – w/ FEW Exceptions
- Playing time is EARNED at practices
- Practice always starts on time.
- You will be ready to go five (5) minutes before.
- No one leaves practice early.
- All players must be dressed in required practice apparel.
- All nets must be set up without verbal orders from coaches. They must be set up as soon as we are allowed on the practice courts.
- Each team will set up and take down their own net if not already set up.
- Teams will be in charge of cleaning up after practices, meetings, tournaments, etc.
 - Please note that this is NOT the sole responsibility of the coaches
- No jewelry or gum on the court.
- Run everywhere during practice.
- 100% focus, attention and EFFORT is required during practice.
- Practice huddles/talks
 - Players will huddle tight in front of coach(es) and stay attentive until dismissed. All eyes are on the coach.
- All loose balls will be shagged promptly and placed in the cart before water breaks.
- Do not talk to teammates while the coach is giving instructions or talking. At the end of the instruction, the coach will address any questions that a player may have.
- Players must report any injury or illness immediately to their coach
- Failure to maintain emotional control during practice or a tournament will lead to dismissal from all or part of such event.
- Work hard, and have fun!
- Treat others (Coaches, Teammates, Club members) with Respect
- CELL PHONES – Cell phones will be put away and remain put away for the duration of practice/training

TOURNAMENT RULES: The intent of Fusion VBC is to be a leader in the volleyball community. It is also our intent to lead by example (both players and athletes) when we are in public and representing Fusion VBC. This means both the Athletes and the Parent(s) of Athletes. These guidelines are set to promote the unity and integrity of Fusion VBC and our families. Please note that circumstances not specifically spelled out below will be handled at the discretion of Fusion VBC Staff, administration, and arbitration panel as necessary.

1. Athletes must bring their full uniform to all competitions. This includes ALL jerseys, spandex, kneepads, and club issued warm up shirt.
2. Athletes are to limit cell phone and device use so as not to interfere with team responsibilities or team engagement.
 - a. Players can listen to music in preparation to play
 - b. Players may NOT watch movies/videos/shows that direct their attention from team/sport while at a tournament
 - c. If cell phones become a distraction at any time throughout an event, coaches reserve the right to require them to be put away.
3. During work assignments and/or breaks, athletes are expected to remain together whenever possible. Teams should be watching and engaging with volleyball and with the team.
4. Work Teams:
 - a. Every Player will be responsible for working their fair share at a tournament.
 - b. Will be attentive and engaged in each match.
 - c. We MUST officiate all matches the way we would want them to be officiated for us!
 - d. If required to work the final match of the day, ALL Athletes must stay until all assignments are complete and they are dismissed by the coach - unless there is an extenuating circumstance.
 - e. Leaving the tournament prior to coach dismissal will result in disciplinary actions
5. *All Team All The Time* – If athletes have friends (including boyfriends) at a tournament, their priority is their TEAM.
6. Athletes are expected to support their teammates while on the bench regardless of whether they are playing that match or not. Poor bench behavior includes not expressing verbal/vocal support of your teammates, conducting side conversations that take their attention from the match, or questioning/complaining/pouting about playing time.
 - a. Our bench should be having fun and being the most engaged group in the venue...SHOWSTOPPERS!
7. Only the Head Coach or Team Captain will question the Officials, line judges or scorekeepers.
8. Athletes should celebrate their successes on the court with their team but at NO TIME should the disrespect our opponents

TRAVEL RULES

Travel to and from practice will be the responsibility of the athlete. We suggest that individuals living in the same general area form car pools. The following guidelines will be strictly adhered to when traveling to tournaments.

- 1) Coaches will provide necessary tournament information to their athletes before each tournament. This information will include:
 - A) Meeting Places
 - B) Meeting Times
 - C) Directions to Tournaments
 - D) Schedule of play when available

NOTE: Players will be required to be at their court and ready to play at the following times –
45 minutes prior to first play
30 minutes prior to first work

- 2) Only adult drivers (age 18 or older) will be allowed to drive to tournaments.
- 3) Every athlete will attend and participate in all activities unless excused by a coach. **This includes athletes that are injured.**
- 4) If overnight lodging is required:
 - A) Athletes will stay with their parents, or another family of their team. (Team rooms may be available.)
 - B) Members of the opposite sex may not enter the team room for any reason.
 - C) **Athletes must be in their room with lights out by 11:00pm or 10 hours prior to the start of your morning match (Which ever comes first.)**
- 5) A player found disobeying the rules set forth by the coaching staff or team chaperone will result in immediate suspension. A player may be reinstated or expelled following a review.

TRAVEL/HOTEL POLICY

Fusion VBC works diligently to manage the travel for our coaches, players, and their families each year. For this reason, it is essential that our parents pay attention to emails about travel and hotel bookings and meet deadlines. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that they have booked hotels and airfare (if necessary) in a timely fashion to attend tournaments. The following rules apply.

- **Attendance & Costs:** Players commit to attending all travel tournaments. It is the responsibility of the player family to arrange and pay for all travel (airfare and ground transportation) and hotel accommodations for players attending all tournaments including travel tournaments. *Fusion VBC* is not responsible for player costs or change fees related to cancelled travel tournaments. *Fusion VBC* will provide information immediately to all families if a tournament has been cancelled.

- **Flight Policy:** If required, airline reservations should be scheduled to arrive the day before a tournament, with arrival before 3:00 p.m. to ensure that players have enough time to rest and mentally prepare for the tournament. Families are discouraged from booking the last flight of the day as unexpected cancellations may prevent a player from arriving at the tournament on time. Return travel should be scheduled after 7 p.m. on the final day of a tournament. We suggest this time based on years of experience with tournament scheduling and the fact that final playoff games on the final day of competition can start as late as 3 p.m. Players who schedule late arrivals prior to a tournament or early departures that require leaving a tournament before a team has finished playing will be penalized at future tournaments or seasons.

- **Club Hotel Blocks:** All hotels for all travel tournaments will be booked in hotel blocks by the club. When committing to a Fusion VBC team, parents are also committing to comply with our hotel policy. Parents will be asked to secure rooms in the hotel block or via a rooming list using a personal credit card. All hotel costs related to tournaments are paid for by player families and are not included in season tuition.

- **Team Hotels:** Players **MUST** stay in the team hotel during designated travel tournaments. This includes any travel tournament designated as such by Fusion VBC, regardless of the tournament's hotel policy. This includes, but is not limited to, all post-season tournaments. If a parent does not want to stay in the team hotel, they should make arrangements for the player to room with another family in the team hotel. **Any player who does not stay in the team hotel will not be allowed to participate in the tournament.**

- **Room Availability:** Only one room per family will be reserved by the club. Families who want extra rooms for grandparents or friends or large families must contact the hotel directly but they may not receive the team rate. Fusion VBC will do everything in our power to get additional rooms in our block, BUT we are subject to the rooms that the tournament hosts allots us.

- **Rooming Lists:** Rooming lists are sometimes required by our hotel contracts to protect the integrity of a room block. The stock of hotel rooms at some tournaments is very limited, so for security reasons, a hotel asks us to provide a list of names of player families who are allowed to book a room in our block. When a rooming list is required, parents must not contact the hotel directly.

Parents who don't follow instructions and contact the hotel directly risk having their reservations automatically cancelled once our rooming list is submitted.

- **Stay-to-Play policies.** Many of our tournaments have stay-to-play policies which require the club to book a minimum number of rooms in order to participate in the tournament. We do our best to secure hotel locations close to the tournament venue, but this is not always possible when room stock is low. Some tournaments hold lotteries to determine the allocation of rooms. Fusion VBC families are required to stay in the team hotel and comply with the hotel policies of our tournaments even if more desirable rooms might be available at another hotel.

- **Post-Season Hotels:** Players on a team participating in the AAU Nationals post-season tournament, are not required to (but encouraged) stay in the designated Fusion VBC room block.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- 1) Fusion VBC requires that parents and players complete all paperwork and remit all dues or fees within the guidelines set forth by the club. The 1st installment of the player fee is due at the first team practice or December 1st (whichever is earlier)
- 2) If for ANY reason, a player quits or is expelled from Fusion VBC **ALL MONIES DUE MUST BE PAID IN FULL** that would have been their responsibility. Any legal fees incurred by Fusion VBC in attempt to collect dues or fees; will be the responsibility of the parent(s) or guardian(s) and the player that has left the club.
- 3) All payments should be submitted online or mailed to the address below:

MAILING ADDRESS:
Fusion Volleyball Club
c/o TJ Shultz
1414 Wellgate Lane
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

- 4) All checks or money orders must be made payable to: **Fusion VBC**
- 5) All dues and fees paid to Fusion VBC are **NON-REFUNDABLE, WITHOUT EXCEPTION.**
- 6) Parents, guardians, and players must act in accordance with all court, gym, tournament, and *Fusion VBC* rules of decorum and etiquette. *Fusion VBC* practices a —No Tolerance policy. Any behavior deemed by *Fusion VBC* directors, coaches, and/or staff as unacceptable and/or inappropriate, will be grounds for a penalty not short of barring an individual from practices and tournaments or immediate dismissal of a player. No refunds will be issued.

LIABILITIES

All coaches must inform their players, parents or guardians that they risk bodily injury, including paralysis, dismemberment and death, as well as loss or damage of property. In addition, they must inform them of the USA Volleyball policy that prohibits any player from transferring teams during the season once that player has represented a team or club in a USA Volleyball sanctioned tournament or has registered with a club unless under special circumstances

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

Fusion VBC feels that attitude is VERY important. As described in the pages above, we encourage a positive attitude from everyone who is on the team. All team members should be supportive and respectful of each other. A positive experience and growth process can only be achieved by having an atmosphere in which a team works together as a whole and not as individual players. As a team member for Fusion VBC it is very important to respect all adults involved with the sport. This starts with the coaches, who try their best to bring out the best in all our players and are dedicated to the sport of volleyball. Every coach will see individual talent in a different way. Allow the coach to bring out this talent and it will make you a stronger, more talented and valuable player. We ask that on the court, you as a player do not argue with the officials of the game. We know not all calls are correct, but they tend to even out over time. We would like you to concentrate on things you can control, which is your playing ability. Good sportsmanship is a must. On and off the court, whether at a tournament or at practice only a positive showing of sportsmanship will be tolerated. Remember when you join Fusion VBC you represent the Club and not just yourself. Each athlete will be expected to comply with the rules and regulations outlined in this handbook. Athletes will conduct themselves in such a manner that they bring credit and respect to their families, teammates and Fusion VBC. Anyone who willfully performs any act that is detrimental to themselves, or Fusion VBC shall be subject to discipline, suspension, or expulsion from the program.

LEVEL 1 - DISCIPLINE:

Level 1 infractions will be minor situations handled by the Team coaches. Situations may include (but are not limited to): Missing practice, missing a tournament, insufficient notice of missing activities, etc. Discipline could consist of Will mean any form of corrective action deemed necessary to correct the problem. The athlete will be told what needs to be corrected and given a specific time frame in which to accomplish it. The athlete will be expected to participate in practices and travel to tournaments even though they may not play. If an athlete makes no attempt to correct a specific problem in the specific time frame, he/she may be suspended or expelled from the club.

LEVEL 2 - SUSPENSION:

Level 2 infractions will consist of either repeated Level 1 infractions or more serious infractions that require Fusion VBC Administrative attention (including but not limited to: Departure of an activity or event early, bully, taunting of opponents, drinking alcohol, smoking or vaping, etc). Level 2 action will mean a suspension from participation in any team related activity for a specific number of days. A suspension is usually a last chance result of a disciplinary problem.

LEVEL 3 - EXPULSION:

Will mean that the athlete will be denied the right to any future participation in or privileges of Fusion VBC. *No refunds of any kind will be given in the case of an expulsion.*

Prior to the implementation of the above sanctions, a conference with the athlete and their parents/guardians will be conducted to ensure the athlete's understanding of the problem and its actions. If a Level 3 (Expulsion) is potentially necessary, an arbitration board made up of Fusion Administrators, current parents (not involved in situation) and former Fusion VBC parents will convene to hear the facts and determine if the expulsion is necessary.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Your child has a large amount of options in sports these days. The Club asks you as a parent to help your child decide whether or not they are willing to put in the effort and commitment that is necessary to achieve the positive outcome we are after. This would include a commitment as a parent to get your child to all practices and games. This includes proper nutrition and sleep so a consistent improvement in skills can be realized. We ask that parents learn the club rules of volleyball. By learning the rules it makes the practices and games more enjoyable for all. This will also help you to understand what the coaches are trying to do and why they are doing things a certain way. We as a club try to explain any rules and regulations of the game so we can all be better spectators and be positive role models for our children. It is very important for the parents to respect the coaches and the officials. If the parents do not respect the people of authority involved with the sport of volleyball then how can we expect our children to respect the coaches and officials? Children learn by example, therefore, be a positive role model for your child. Keep in mind everyone is trying to do the best job that they can and your support is appreciated. Obscenities in and around practices and games will not be tolerated. If you learn to keep your composure you can teach your child to do the same.

When your child becomes a Fusion VBC member, they also become a member of the Keystone Region of USA Volleyball (KRVA) and the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU). When that happens they sign an agreement to follow the code of conduct outlined by Keystone Region. In that code are rules for parents and spectators to abide by. If these rules are broken there are a set of consequences for both the parents and player and possible the team. Remember when you attend an event you represent not only yourself but also our Club.

Fusion VBC staff and/or Tournament Directors reserve the right to remove ANY spectator from an event if they are displaying unsportsmanlike conduct. No warning is necessary for such action.

We as a Club run on volunteer help. It is expected that all parents be involved in some way when asked.

Fusion VBC fully understands the value of parent involvement and encourages our parents to offer feedback (positive or negative) in a respectful way. Below is the procedure with which feedback should occur:

1. 24-hr rule: If the athlete or parent has a concern arising from a practice or tournament that needs to be addressed, they must wait at least 24 hours following the completion of that event to speak with the coaches.
2. Do NOT approach a coach immediately prior to practice. Our coaches are required to focus on the needs of the team and their training. A meeting can be set up following practice.
3. The ATHLETE must first ask for a meeting with the coach(es) to discuss the issue at hand. In the case of players 13 and younger, the parents may request the meeting, in which the athlete, parent and coach must all be present.
4. If the issue is unresolved, the parents may ask for a 2nd meeting which would include themselves, the athlete and the coach(es) to discuss it. The meeting should take place at a location adequate for private discussion and agreed upon by all parties – NOT at a tournament.
5. If the issue is STILL unresolved, a meeting with Club Director may be requested. The decision of the Club Director at this point is Final. PLEASE NOTE: That if the decision includes potential expulsion for the club, the Club Director will confer with a neutral Arbitration Panel to come to the FINAL resolution.

Below are some of the acts (not fully inclusive) that shall constitute sufficient cause for implementing disciplinary actions...

- 1) Disruptive or unsportsman-like conduct
- 2) Excessive tardiness or unexcused absences
- 3) Disobedience or display of bad attitude towards coach
- 4) Excessive late payments
- 5) Illegal transport, illegal possession, or use of illegal drugs or other substances banned by the KRVA or USAV
- 6) Use of a recognized identification card by anyone other than the individual described on the card
- 7) Physical damage to a facility or theft of items from a room, dormitory, residence, or other person
- 8) Possession of fireworks, ammunition, firearms, or other weapons or any item or material which by commonly accepted practices and principles would be a hazard or harmful to other persons, state or local ordinances
- 9) Violation of the specific policies, regulations, and/or procedures of the USA, USAV or the facility used in conjunction with a sanctioned event
- 10) Conduct which is inappropriate as determined by comparison to normally accepted behavior
- 11) Physical or verbal intimidation of any individual
- 12) Inappropriate use of social media (bullying, badmouthing team, teammates, coaches, or Club or posting of inappropriate photos)
- 13) Evidence of drug, alcohol or vaping use
 - a. If suspected of substance abuse, we will speak with parents and could request a blood test before allowing the athlete back to full participating status

Playing Time

12's / 13's – Even playing time is the goal at these levels

14s and up – It is expected that all athletes will participate at each event, however, even playing time will most likely not occur and should not be expected.

If a player or parent has an issue or question in regards to playing time, make sure to address it with the coach after the 48-hr cooling off period.

- *Parents MUST understand that volleyball is a position-specific sport. With this said, some players will play more or less based on their positions and court rotations.*

CONTRACT

To assure that we have the same commitment from everyone in Fusion VBC we would like you and your parent(s) to sign the following contract. This contract acknowledges that you and your parent(s) have read and will abide by the club rules set forth in the player handbook.

I, _____ have read, comprehended and agree to abide by the rules stated in the Club Handbook.

Player signature Date

I, _____ have read, comprehended and agree to abide by the rules stated in the Club Handbook. I also assume all financial responsibilities related to my son's/daughter's team in the 2023-2024 club season, regardless of her individual completion of the season.

Parent signature Date

The Internet has become a popular tool in advertising and exchanging information. The Fusion VBC website is www.fusionvbc.com. We will place pictures on the website of players and possibly family members. Our policy is not to place first and last names of minors as captions near posted website pictures. We ask the parent's permission to use the athlete's picture on the website. We also understand that this may be a sensitive issue, and a parent may choose not to allow their child's picture to be used. The Fusion VBC staff will respect either choice selected.

Yes, pictures may be used. _____
Parent Signature Parent Printed Name

No, pictures may not be used. _____
Parent Signature Parent Printed Name

TEAM _____

**MANDATORY TO SUBMIT THIS SHEET
WITH 1ST INSTALLMENT PAYMENT**

CLUB FILE COPY