



# JAX PURSUIT

## **WELCOME TO JAX PURSUIT VOLLEYBALL!**

*Welcome to the Jax Pursuit Volleyball family! We are thrilled to have you join us for a season of growth, learning, and fun. At Jax Pursuit Volleyball, our mission is to provide a positive and competitive experience for players of all skill levels. Whether you're just starting out or working to refine your skills, Jax Pursuit Volleyball is here to support you every step of the way.*

*Jax Pursuit Volleyball was initially founded with the goal of serving multisport athletes—those who have a passion for volleyball but need a more flexible commitment. Our program offers a balance that allows players to grow in the sport while still pursuing other athletic interests or commitments.*

*Since our foundation, Jax Pursuit Volleyball has continued to attract players who are seeking quality coaching in a positive, competitive, and flexible environment. While our model is flexible, our commitment to quality is unwavering. Our experienced coaching staff is dedicated to fostering not only skill development but also a competitive edge, ensuring every player has the opportunity to excel and achieve their goals. With a foundation built on expertise and a love for the game, we provide an environment where athletes can thrive.*

*This handbook outlines our policies, expectations, and values to ensure a successful and enjoyable season for all.*

*Sincerely,*

*Philippa Marks*

*Club Director*

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# I. CLUB INFORMATION

## Mission Statement

At Jax Pursuit Volleyball, our mission is to develop players' skills and foster a lifelong love for volleyball. We believe in building strong fundamentals, teamwork, and character while creating a supportive and inclusive environment. Our qualified coaches are dedicated to raising caring, hard-working players who strive for excellence both on and off the court.

## Philosophy

At Jax Pursuit Volleyball, we believe that volleyball is more than just a sport—it's a platform for personal growth, teamwork, and character development. Our philosophy is centered on three core principles: **development, effort, and community.**

### 1. Development

We are dedicated to helping every player build strong fundamental skills and a deep understanding of the game. Our coaches focus on teaching technique, strategy, and teamwork, ensuring that players develop both as athletes and as individuals. Success at Jax Pursuit Volleyball is measured by progress, not just wins or playing time.

### 2. Effort

Hard work and a positive attitude are the foundation of our club. We encourage players to embrace challenges, learn from mistakes, and strive to give their best in every practice and competition. Through consistent effort, players not only improve their skills but also grow in confidence and resilience.

### 3. Community

At Jax Pursuit Volleyball, we are more than a team—we are a family. We foster an environment of mutual respect, support, and encouragement. Our players learn the value of collaboration and sportsmanship, and we are committed to creating a positive experience for athletes, families, and coaches alike.

We believe that by focusing on these principles, Jax Pursuit Volleyball can inspire a lifelong love for the game while raising players who are caring, hard-working, and prepared to make a positive impact both on and off the court.

# II. PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

## Player Conduct

Jax Pursuit has a firm policy prohibiting inappropriate behavior, including foul language, rude gestures, or aggressive actions toward players, parents, coaches, officials, or opponents. Additionally, the use of illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco is strictly prohibited. Any player found with these substances during a club event will face immediate dismissal from Jax Pursuit. Smoking and the use of tobacco, nicotine, alcohol, or illegal drugs are not permitted.

Academics come first at Jax Pursuit. Players are expected to balance their studies with their athletic commitments. If a player fails to maintain their academics (according to their school or parents), they may face consequences such as a reduced playing time or temporary suspension from practices or tournaments.

Participation in all physical conditioning activities and drills is mandatory unless excused by a doctor or coach.

## **Attendance Policy**

Jax Pursuit was founded with the multisport athlete in mind, recognizing the importance of balancing commitments across various activities. However, players are expected to prioritize their attendance at practices and tournaments whenever there is no direct conflict with other obligations.

Players must notify the coach as soon as they know they will miss a practice or event. Advance notice is required to allow coaches to adjust plans.

Emergency situations are exceptions, but any anticipated tournament absences must be disclosed on the Conflict Form prior to tryouts.

Schedules are shared in advance, ensuring sufficient time for players to identify conflicts and notify coaches appropriately.

Players should arrive at practice 15 minutes early and at tournaments 60 minutes prior to the first match, unless otherwise directed by the Head Coach.

## **Team Culture**

Players must support their teammates and maintain positive conduct at all times. Poor behavior during practice or on the bench may result in reduced playing time. Respectful treatment of teammates, coaches, officials, and fans is essential.

If conflicts arise between players, they will be encouraged to resolve issues directly with the coach's guidance. Unresolved conflicts will involve the parents, coach, and director to find a solution. No disputes should be left unresolved.

# **III. PARENT EXPECTATIONS**

## **Conduct**

Parents play a vital role in the success of Jax Pursuit athletes, and their support is essential to creating a positive environment. Parents are expected to encourage their athletes, respect the decisions of coaches and officials, and model good sportsmanship at all times. Constructive communication with coaches should follow appropriate channels, with any concerns addressed at designated times outside of games or practices. (See the Grievances/Dispute Policy for more information.)

Parents are also responsible for ensuring their athletes arrive on time, are prepared for practices and tournaments, and adhere to the club's policies. By fostering a supportive and respectful atmosphere, parents contribute to the development and success of both their athlete and the entire Jax Pursuit community.

## **Tournament Needs**

Because of the long tournament days, it is recommended that each player/team bring the nutritional food and drink necessary to stay hydrated and physically stable. Parents and team chaperones should organize a plan to provide nutritious, energy-efficient food and water for players before and after matches during a tournament day. Often, there is neither time nor transportation to run out to eat between matches.

## **Team Parent**

ALL teams must have a Team Parent. These parents are also on an email notification list to help disseminate information to the other team members' parents/guardians throughout the season.

## **IV. SEASON INFORMATION**

### **Team Practices**

Jax Pursuit teams practice 1 to 3 days a week, depending on the age and the level of the team (tournament teams vs developmental program). Team practices are usually 1.5 to 2 hours in length, and may consist of group skills practices with other teams, team-specific practice or a joint-practice and scrimmage with another Jax Pursuit team. We do our best to maintain a consistent practice schedule at the same location throughout the season.

### **Practice Requirements and Conduct**

The following rules apply to all practices:

- Players are required to wear appropriate practice gear, including volleyball shoes, socks, kneepads, spandex or shorts, and an appropriate t-shirt.
- Players are expected to arrive early enough to assist with court setup, stretch, and warm-up under the supervision of their coach. Cell phone use is strictly prohibited during practice unless you have permission from your coach.
- Players are expected to work hard and be attentive and respectful to their coaches and teammates during practice.
- Only players who are current on their dues are permitted to participate in practices or tournaments.
- Jax Pursuit Volleyball reserves the right to adjust practice times, duration, and days with sufficient notice provided to parents and players.
- Jax Pursuit Volleyball reserves the right to suspend or terminate a player's membership for non-adherence to USAV or Jax Pursuit Volleyball policies, facility rules, or the terms of the Parent/Player Agreement.

Parents, family, and friends are welcome to observe practices from designated areas. Those sitting near the court must refrain from addressing coaches, players, or trainers during practice. These guidelines ensure a focused, safe, and productive environment for all players and coaches.

### **Tournaments**

The primary goal of tournaments is to provide teams with opportunities to compete and grow. Team composition and playing time are determined at the discretion of the coaching staff, with decisions based on the following factors:

1. Evaluation of skills and talent by the Head Coach and coaching staff
2. Player position(s)
3. Team needs during the tournament
4. Consistent attendance at practices and tournaments

These considerations ensure that team decisions align with both individual development and overall team success.

### **Team Travel**

For tournaments outside of Jacksonville, Jax Pursuit Volleyball will arrange blocks of hotel rooms for your convenience. Parents are responsible for contacting the designated hotel and reserving rooms using their credit card by the specified deadline. While we encourage our teams to stay in the same hotels to foster team camaraderie, it is not mandatory for athletes to use the suggested accommodations.

## Tournament Policies

### PREPAREDNESS

- Players should arrive on time to all tournaments and scheduled warmups and matches. It is club policy that players who are late to a tournament, warm ups or match would possibly lose playing time at the discretion of the coach.
- Players commit to getting enough sleep prior to the tournament and to maintaining proper nutrition before and during the tournament.
- Players must bring their full uniform including all jerseys to every tournament Failure to do so could result in lack of playing time.
- Players should line up backpacks neatly on the court or in the camping area.

### ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOR

- Players and Parents are representing the club, their coach, their teammates/players, and themselves at a tournament and are committing to always behave in a respectful manner to tournament officials, coaches, teammates/players, parents and their opponents.
- Cell phones are to be put away during warmups, competition and work duties. Players who violate this policy will sit out the next set. No exceptions.
- Players and parents should never argue with officials. This includes player line judges and scorekeepers. Disputes over scores should be handled by players and coaches only, and parents should not shout or intervene in any way.
- Parents are not allowed to approach a coach about issues of playing time, position or other disputes during a tournament. (Please see the *DISPUTE/GRIEVANCE POLICY* section of this handbook for more information.)
- All players are required to help with the line judging, scorekeeping, score flipping, and down officiating. No headsets or cell phones are to be used during officiating assignments. Anyone that does not adhere to work assignments could be penalized at the discretion of the coach.

### **Playing Time**

Parental support is crucial for the growth of individual players and the overall success of their team. We ask parents to maintain a positive attitude and encourage their player to stay confident, whether they are a starting player with significant playing time or a substitute with fewer rotations. Decisions regarding team lineups and playing time are made solely by the coaches and club leadership. Parents are not permitted to discuss these decisions with coaches at tournaments, practices, or through email or text. If a parent has concerns about playing time, they should follow the steps outlined in the Dispute/Grievance Policy.

### **Dispute/Grievance Policy**

Jax Pursuit fully comprehends the value of parent involvement and encourages our parents to offer feedback whether positive or negative, but to do so in a respectful way. The below procedure is designed to help athletes and parents with questions, concerns, or problems that may occur during the season. It ensures open and honest communication between all parties involved.

1. 24-hour rule: If the athlete or parent has a concern arising from a tournament or practice that needs to be addressed, they must wait at least 24 hours after the conclusion of the event to discuss the issue with the head coach. We trust that parents will be timely in communicating with coaches regarding potential issues that would distract that coach from their primary objective of coaching the team.
2. Don't approach the coach immediately before the start of practice, the coach must focus on the athletes and the training required during practice.
3. The athlete must first ask for a meeting with the coach to discuss the issue at hand. In the case of

players on 13's or younger teams, the parents may request a meeting, in which the athlete, parent, and coach must be present.

4. If the issue is unresolved, the parents may ask for a meeting between themselves, the athlete, and the coach to discuss the issue. The meeting should take place at a location considered adequate for a private discussion agreed upon by both the parent and coach – NOT at a tournament and/or practice.
5. If the issue is unresolved, the parent may ask for a meeting with the club director, the head coach, and the athlete. The meeting should take place at a location considered adequate for private discussion, agreed upon by the parent, coach, and director and during a scheduled time away from practice or a tournament is appropriate. The decision of the club director at this point is FINAL.
6. Our parents must serve as a support system for our club, players, and coaches. To ask this, we, as the club director, staff, and coaches need to be available to empower parents and athletes with information and ensure understanding. When all parties share time together, the potential conflict creates a greater opportunity to learn from each other different strategies in how all parties can communicate effectively and be more congruent in cultivating a positive experience for our athletes.

## V. MEMBERSHIP FEES AND REFUND POLICY

The 2024 - 2025 Membership Fee varies by age and level of team. The first payment of \$300.00 is required by January 15, 2025, and the final payment is due no later than April 15, 2025. Pursuit will be responsible for paying all coaches, rental costs for practice facilities and training equipment, and all fees and registration expenses associated with team tournament play. The player's parent and/or guardian must assume responsibility for payment of uniform(s) and USAV membership and all other costs associated with the player's participation in the Jax Pursuit Club, including travel costs for away tournaments.

All payments must be made no later than April 15, 2025. All payments are **non-refundable** regardless of the player's ability to participate in the club's activities, including early withdrawal or termination from the club.

All payments should be sent to:

Jax Pursuit  
PMB #152  
3832-10 Baymeadows Rd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32217

A \$25 bounced check fee will be charged for all checks returned by a financial institution.

### Payment Default Policy

Unpaid dues create financial challenges for the club by limiting available funds for expenses. If a player's account becomes delinquent, the club will notify their parent/guardian via email. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to verify that a current email address is on record. The player may be suspended from participating in any club, team, or Jax Pursuit Volleyball activity, and any club transfer requests will be denied. A \$25 late fee will be applied to payments more than 30 days overdue.

## VI. MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES

Jax Pursuit Volleyball, hereafter referred to as “Jax Pursuit”, shall provide volleyball instruction and supervision during USA Volleyball (USAV) sanctioned volleyball tournaments, following the governing policies and guidelines established by the USAV and the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), for the 2024 - 2025 Club Volleyball season.

### 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, organizations must limit such interactions between youth and adults and implement programs that reduce the risk of sexual abuse.

#### ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

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*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

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*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) 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) 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. 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 Volleyball'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 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.

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<sup>3</sup> Athletic trainers who are covered under these policies must follow the "Athletic Training Modalities, Massages

## **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, MESSAGES, AND RUBDOWNS**

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

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## **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**

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*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**

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.
- d. 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.
  - 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.

#### **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.

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

## TRANSPORTATION

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

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### 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*

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### 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) 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) 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. 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

## **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:

- a. A member or license holder of USA Volleyball, RVAs or Clubs ;
- b. An employee or board member of USA Volleyball, RVAs or Clubs ;
- c. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USA Volleyball, RVAs or Clubs ;
- d. 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.

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<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.

## APPENDIX I

CHART OF POSSIBLE ADULT PARTICIPANTS IN USAV:

Adult Participant	Regular Contact	Authority Over
USAV Staff/Interns	X	X
USAV Board Members		X
Region/Club Staff	X	X
Region/Club Board Members		X
Coaches	X	X
Officials	X	X
USAV Members 18 years or over on teams with Minors	X	
Chaperones	X	X
Club Administrators	X	X
Arbitrators	X	X
Medical Professionals	X	X
Athletic Trainers	X	X
Independent Contractors	X	

**USAV Members 18 and over who are only participating in Opens (i.e., not also a club coach, chaperone, or board member) with no minor players are not required to take training.**



# JAX PURSUIT

## Club Release Policy

If an athlete/family decides to depart Jax Pursuit Volleyball during the respective season, the following steps must take place:

### Release Policy:

STEP 1 - The athlete/family in question must submit a written request for release to the Club Director, **Philippa Marks** [jaxpursuit@gmail.com](mailto:jaxpursuit@gmail.com), and to the Florida Region at [membership@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:membership@floridavolleyball.org) stating the reason for the request.

Club may deny request for release of the athlete.

STEP 2 -- If club approves release of the athlete:

1. All financial obligations agreed upon contractually must be paid in full before the athlete is approved to be released.
2. Payment Option - Cashier's check or money order
3. Once payment is received by cashier's check or money order the club will send an email to the Florida Region at [membership@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:membership@floridavolleyball.org) approving release of the named athlete.

The club can agree to waive the requirements above on a case-by-case basis.

**Transfer Policy:** A player can represent only one club during the Season. A change in geographical location of the family due to a change in job, military, scholastic or inner-collegiate status may receive special consideration. No player may participate in different Qualifying events with different clubs/teams. Proof of residency must be provided by the family at the time of the release/transfer request.

Once an athlete has participated in a **National Qualifier Event (Regional or NQ)** they may not be released for the rest of the season to another club. Please refer to the USA Volleyball (USAV) Championship Manual on releases for athletes that participate in regional or national qualifying/bid events.

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Player Name (Print)

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Parent Name (Print)

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Parent Signature

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Date:

# JAX PURSUIT VOLLEYBALL

## PARTICIPANT WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

### **Acknowledgment of Risk**

I, the undersigned participant (or parent/legal guardian if the participant is under 18), understand that participation in volleyball and related activities organized by Jax Pursuit Volleyball (the "Organization") involves inherent risks, including but not limited to, personal injury, property damage, illness, or even death. These risks may arise from the actions of the participant, other participants, the condition of the facilities, or the negligence of others.

### **Assumption of Risk**

I voluntarily assume all risks related to my participation in activities associated with Jax Pursuit Volleyball. I understand that these activities include practices, games, training sessions, tournaments, and any other events organized by the Organization.

### **Release of Liability**

In consideration of being allowed to participate, I hereby release, discharge, and hold harmless Jax Pursuit Volleyball, its directors, employees, agents, coaches, volunteers, sponsors, and affiliates (collectively "Released Parties") from any and all claims, demands, causes of action, or liability arising out of or in connection with my participation in the activities, including any claims related to negligence by the Released Parties.

### **Medical Treatment**

I authorize the Organization to secure emergency medical treatment for me (or my child) in the event of an injury or illness and agree to assume all financial responsibility for such treatment.

### **Acknowledgment of Understanding**

I have read this Release of Liability and Waiver Agreement and fully understand its terms. I acknowledge that I am signing this agreement freely and voluntarily and intend for it to be a complete and unconditional release of liability to the greatest extent allowed by law.

Participant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

FOR PARTICIPANTS OF MINORITY AGE - (UNDER AGE 18 AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION) CONSENT AND RELEASE ON BEHALF OF MINOR I am the parent and/or legal guardian of the above named minor participant. I have read this agreement thoroughly and understand all of the terms. I understand that I am surrendering legal rights on behalf of the minor and myself. I, on behalf of myself and my minor, agree to be bound by all of the terms of this agreement and also give my consent to allow my minor to participate in the Activities described herein. I release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any kind and all liabilities incident to my minor child's involvement or participation in these programs as provided above, even if arising from the negligence of the releases, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Parent/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Minor \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_