



Parent/Player Handbook

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Welcome to EVC

We are excited to have you join our family! Eich's Volleyball Club (EVC) was created to give athletes the opportunity to pursue their dream of playing volleyball at a higher level. We believe that by participating in our program, athletes will learn many life lessons including, but not limited to, trust, accountability, compassion, citizenship, a strong work ethic, fitness, sportsmanship, and teamwork. These are all critical traits that will help these individuals succeed in life both on and beyond the volleyball court. Everyone at EVC is committed to providing you with the opportunity to grow as both a player and an individual, and to play volleyball at a higher level if you choose.

EVC was established in 2013. We launched this club to provide our in-house Volleyball League players with new challenges and player development opportunities. We have continued to grow every year because of the outstanding coaches and families who care so deeply about all of our athletes.

EVC is a family-owned and family-operated organization that believes in family values. We are very proud of who we are and the athletes in our rapidly growing volleyball family. EVC is affiliated with USA Volleyball (USAV), the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), and the Junior Volleyball Association (JVA)

Our Programs

National or Elite

National and Elite-level teams begin play in November and continue through mid-June, when their seasons culminate at a national event. These teams also travel throughout the season to other National level tournaments. They compete in tournaments an average of twice per month starting in December. Teams will compete in the Windy City Power League. These teams practice 2-3 times per week.

Club

Club teams start play in November and play until Mid-June where their season finishes in a local large tournament such as in Chicago at the ***Asics Junior National Championship*** in mid-June. Teams typically compete in the ***Windy City Power League or the Chicago Volleyball League***. These teams practice 2-3 times per week and have tournaments on average of twice per month starting in December.

Regional

Regional teams start play in November and play until mid-April. They practice twice a week and compete in the Chicago Volleyball League or the Windy City Power League. They compete approximately twice per month, including league play.

Spring Season Teams

Spring season teams are great for multi-sport athletes or players who want to see what playing club volleyball is all about. Teams are coached by club coaches. They practice 2 times per week and compete in 3 tournaments. Tryouts are in March and the season takes place in Mid-April through Mid-June.

In-House Teams

In-House teams are the perfect level for those that are just getting started in volleyball or may not be able to commit to a longer season. The seasons are 8 weeks long. The teams practice once a week and have games once a week. We offer 4–5 in-house seasons throughout the year.

EVC Club Expectations

Attendance

Joining a club is an important commitment. It is expected that you are at ALL practices and tournaments. If you are unable to make it to a practice due to sickness or a family emergency, it is your responsibility to contact your coach ASAP. Coaches work hard to plan practices and they plan on everyone being there. When a player is absent, it can affect the quality and effectiveness of the entire practice.

Multi-sport Athletes

We understand that it takes some young individuals time to decide what their sport is and where to focus their energy and effort. However, it is expected that you make every attempt to be at EVC practices. Early communication with your coach at the beginning of the season is crucial. Players who consistently attend practice may earn increased playing opportunities over those who are frequently absent.

Playing Time

Playing time at the club level is not guaranteed; it is earned through attendance, effort, attitude, performance, team needs, and the coach's judgment. If a player has a concern about playing time, the player, not the parent, should first schedule an appropriate time to speak privately with the coach.

Player/Parent/Coach Relationships

The relationship between a player and coach is critical to the success of the team. Coaches focus on the best interests of every player on their team. Children listen to their parents. It is extremely important that every EVC parent models the proper way to succeed with a team. Every parent and player is expected to:

Never put down other players on the team.

Never put down coaches.

Never put down opponents.

Please remember that you, the coach, and the player all share a common goal: to ensure the success of your child and the team. Working together and communicating actively will improve everyone's outcomes.

Parent Behavior

Parents should conduct themselves at competitions in ways that earn the respect of the coaches, the opponents, and the officials. We encourage cheering for our teams, as that is a huge motivator for our players. Negative comments about any teams, players, coaches, or officials are never acceptable. Parents who violate these expectations may be asked to leave the event and may face additional disciplinary action.

Supporting the Club

EVC has several teams in our club, and we consider our club a family. When your child's team is not participating in a match, we encourage you to cheer on another part (team) of our EVC family.

24-Hour Rule

The volleyball season is long, and we understand that you may not always agree with the coach's decisions. We expect that parents will respect the decisions and actions of the coaches and the club, as these are driven by many factors, and you may not have all the applicable information. If you have a concern, speak to your child about the situation first. If you are still not satisfied, please feel free to contact the coach to set up a private meeting after 24 hours have passed. Parents must never confront a coach or club director at a tournament regarding playing time or coaching decisions. Failure to follow this policy may result in the parent being asked to leave the event and may lead to additional disciplinary action.

Lines of Communication

1. Player speaks with the coach.
2. Player and parent meet with the coach if the concern remains unresolved.
3. Club leadership becomes involved if additional resolution is needed.

Other Rules

Stealing

Any athlete found stealing will be subject to immediate dismissal from the team.

Alcohol, Drugs, and Prohibited Substances

The use or possession of alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, vaping products, or other prohibited substances is strictly forbidden. Any athlete found using alcohol or drugs will be subject to immediate dismissal from the team.

Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones are a distraction. Players are not allowed to use their cell phone during practice or tournaments unless their coach has given them specific permission to do so. This applies to all players on the team, including any injured players.

Bullying

No EVC player or family member will bully anyone on their team or another team under any circumstance. This is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. This includes any form of “cyberbullying”; remember that what you post on social media sites is out there for all to see. We expect everyone who represents the EVC family to be respectful at all times. **Bullying may result in dismissal from the team.**

Social Media Policy

EVC recognizes that social media is part of today’s world and individuals have the right to express themselves. However, being a member of EVC is a privilege and not a right. As a member of EVC—including an administrator, coach, athlete, or parent—you represent the club in the community and online. You are expected to portray yourself, your team and EVC in a positive manner at all times.

Please keep in mind these things when posting on any social media:

- **EVERYTHING** posted online, or in any text group or app is there forever. Even if you think it is deleted or gone in 24 hours (ie. Snapchat) that information is stored on multiple servers and/or other people’s phones.

- You have no control over who sees your post. Even if you think you do, you don't know who might see your post.
- Being disrespectful, creating drama, or showing unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated on or offline!
 - Engaging with other people's posts means you are involved. If you see another person's post that might be detrimental to the team, please take a screenshot and show your coach and/or your parents.
- Do not share a teammate's contact information or social media username without that person's permission.

Before you post something ask yourself this:

- Would you show this message/photo to your parents, teachers, or coaches?
- Does this reflect poorly on EVC, my team, or myself?
- Does this post breach any of EVC's policies? Are you willing to be suspended or expelled for posting this?

When it doubt, don't post it. Remember that college coaches and future employers may find your posts years after they were originally published. Is it worth it?

Contact Us

Eich's Sports Complex in Plainfield is the official home of EVC. We are located on the north side of Plainfield, ¼ mile West of Route 59 on the northeast corner of the intersection of 143rd Street and Van Dyke Road. Please feel free to contact the Club Director, Brian Eich, with any comments, questions or feedback. You can reach Brian at (815) 436-9044 or via email at brianeich.EVC@gmail.com.

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