



A5 VOLLEYBALL PARENT-PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

Introduction

The A5 Family is pleased to welcome you to a new volleyball season! We are anticipating another fantastic experience. Along the way this season, we have to ensure that all of us- Directors, Coaches, Parents and Athletes- have a common understanding of where we are going. Our goal is an incident-free season. Our experience has told us that the best way for us to accomplish this is to commit to writing our exact expectations up front. Please don't hesitate to ask your Coach, Board Representative or the Club Director if you have any questions about any of this information.

The policies enumerated herein apply to all players of all three clubs within the A5 Family—A5, GA5 and A5 South—though for simplicity's sake we will hereinafter refer to the clubs as A5.

General Policies for ALL Athletes – All Teams

1. All Athletes must adhere to the USAV Code of Conduct, which is attached.
2. All Athletes are expected to attend all events scheduled for their team.
3. All Athletes are responsible for their own uniforms. The club does not have replacements for lost uniforms. Any replacement costs will be your responsibility.

Travel Policies

1. All Athletes on the 14's Team and up must stay with the Team while attending overnight tournaments. Any exceptions to this must be approved by the Head Coach.
2. Athletes on the 13's Team and younger will travel and stay in hotel rooms with a parent or chaperone at a hotel designated by A5.
3. Once hotels are reserved and shared expense is listed we will not change dates of hotel stay due to wave times. We cannot predict the wave times for each team that will be playing in a tournament and we must confirm hotel reservations far in advance of any tournament. Please do not ask a coach if we can cancel team hotel rooms.
4. All Athletes must adhere to curfews established by their coach or chaperone when traveling with the club. Athletes are to be in their rooms at the designated Curfew hour. Athletes are to be in their OWN room as of Curfew and Lights Out time. "Lights Out" means "Lights Out." Lights, Television, Phones, and Computers are to be off at this time.
5. At no time will an Athlete be allowed to leave hotel property without the expressed permission of their coach or chaperone. If there is appropriate "down time", your parents may request to take you off premises.
6. Any parent volunteer providing transportation for a tournament is under the direction of the Coach insofar as when and where Athletes are required to be. Please do not volunteer if you cannot work in conjunction with the team requirements.
7. Transportation to and from all practices, Club-sponsored clinics, airports, and in-state tournaments is the responsibility of the parents. Teams may agree to travel together if convenient. In all cases, arrival times at sites when involving Athlete sponsored transport will be to allow Athletes/Coaches to have the Scheduled Team Dinner the night before the Event.
8. No Athlete may drive to or from an out-of-town tournament without permission from the Director.

9. The Coach and Director will select the time and location of departure when traveling to a tournament.
10. When at Restaurants, the Team and Coaches will sit together at one table or seating areas. Parents may be invited to Team meals, but will sit with other parents.
11. When at a lodging location, Athletes must travel in pairs (at a minimum) when walking outside of the lodging premises.
12. When at the lodging location, there shall be no display of disrespect toward any Club (A5 or other Club) Coach, Athlete, Parent, Chaperone, or Hotel Guest/Employee.
13. Boys are not permitted in the rooms or hallways of the Athletes' lodging at any time. The only exception to this policy is the relative of an Athlete. Violation of the policy will result in immediate expulsion from A5.

Attendance Policies

1. A5 will enforce the following practice and tournament attendance policy for every athlete. This is not intended to prevent an Athlete from playing another sport while participating with A5. Attendance at practices and tournaments may affect playing time.
2. General Policy: It is the responsibility of the Athlete or the parents to notify the coach of any scheduled team event that the Athlete will be missing with at least one week notice for practices, and two weeks notice for tournaments.
 - a. Practice
 - i. All Practices are Mandatory. There are no exceptions for schoolwork or homework. It is the Athlete's responsibility to balance schoolwork with practice.
 - ii. If an Athlete has eight (8) absences during the season, the Coaching Director and Club Director will conduct a review to determine if that Athlete should remain with the Team.
 - iii. Missing more than ½ of a practice counts as an absence. Flexibility will be extended to school departure time and school location as well as location of residence in relation to practice site.
 - iv. All absences from practices will be evaluated by the Coaching Director/Club Director with proper documentation on a case by case basis.
 - b. Tournaments
 - i. Missing a part of any tournament day counts as 1 absence.
 - ii. Attendance at National Qualifiers and Regionals is mandatory.
 - iii. The Coaching Director/Club Director will evaluate all tournament absences with proper documentation on a case-by-case basis.

Athlete/Parent Conduct at a Tournaments/Practice Site

It is the intent of A5 to be a leader in the Volleyball Community. It is also the intent of A5 to lead by example, which means that both the Athlete and the Parents of the Athlete need to lead by example. These guidelines are set forth to protect the safety and integrity of you, your parents the Coaches and A5. Please be aware that all circumstances are not accounted for and in the event of an undue circumstance, the Director will enforce appropriate action. We wish to set the standard for other programs to mirror.

NOTE: All Policies listed here, where appropriate, are for Athletes AND Parents.

1. EQUAL PLAYING TIME IS NOT GUARANTEED. Coaches evaluate athletes during practices on a weekly basis. Playing time at Tournaments is earned at Practice. If you have a question about your playing time, set up a time with your Coach to discuss the situation per the grievance/escalation policies listed below.
2. "Conduct unbecoming an Athlete" will not be tolerated at any A5 function/event. This covers a wide variety of circumstances, for example the use of foul language or rude gestures towards other athletes, parents, coaches, officials or opponents.
3. No Parent is to talk with any other Athlete, Parent, Coach, Tournament Official/Director, or Referee in an argumentative or disparaging manner.
4. Parents are to be supportive of their Athletes during tournaments and not question them or their teammates regarding their play or about how much or how little they have played. When in doubt, A5 believes Parent support should be Unconditional- We are ALL "**All Team All the Time.**"
5. Parents are not to "Coach" their Athletes during Tournaments. The Athletes should be focused solely on what Coaches have to say and need to concentrate on such.

6. If full-size passenger vans are available when a team flies to a tournament, the preferred method of transportation will be with the Coach or Assistant Coach driving the team in a single van.
7. Our policy is "All Team All the Time." When we are in the gym for a Tournament, athletes are responsible for staying with their Team at all times. In the event friends attend a tournament, it should be understood that an athlete's priority is with their team.
8. Cell phone policy: No Cell phones are allowed to be "On" in the gym during any Practice and/or at Tournaments. All Cell phones will be turned off in the evening at a time specified by the Head Coach. (Note: The Head Coach will always be available via cell phone.)
9. Proper nutrition is required. Practices will be very demanding on your physical abilities. Tournaments are an all day affair, and in some cases two and three days long. Your Coach will advise you when to eat from the Tournament Table that is being set up for the Team. In all cases, it is important to stay well hydrated at all times.
10. If an Athlete is removed by Parents for any reason from the Tournament site without previous permission from the Head Coach, A5 will consider that Athlete to have resigned from the Program. As indicated in the Financial Obligation Contract, all remaining monies will become due and payable at that time.
11. For many Tournaments, Teams will be responsible for officiating, scorekeeping and judging lines. Each athlete 12 and older is required to attend an SRVA clinic on Scorekeeping or Officiating. Our policy on officiating is we want to officiate other teams the way we ourselves would want to be officiated.
12. No Team Member is permitted to leave a tournament site until all officiating responsibilities are completed. There may be circumstances for Local Tournaments where the Head Coach can give you permission to leave
13. You are to support your Teammates at all time while on the Team bench, whether you are playing in a particular match or not. Poor Bench behavior includes not expressing verbal/vocal support for your teammates, conducting side conversations taking other's attention off the match, disrupting the match with inappropriate discussion with the Coach or Coaches, or questioning your playing time or status during the match
14. Parents are to be supportive of the entire Team at all times, and all A5 Teams while at Tournaments. Parents are not to engage in any behavior in cheering that would reflect negatively on A5. Guidelines for Parents are no different from Athletes in this regard.
15. Only the Head Coach or the Team Captain, under the direction of the Head Coach, may question an official.
16. On the night(s) before a "Home" tournament (Where the A5 team is not traveling), if there is not a Team/Club function, the Parents and Athletes are asked to not schedule any other events, and to ensure that adequate rest is received so the Athlete will be ready to play the next day. The Athlete's focus should be on Volleyball the night before the event.
17. The team will travel together from the hotel to playing sites, dressed in the same representative club attire. For the purposes of Uniforms, Athletes are NOT allowed to wear non A5 attire from the time they enter the gym until the time the Tournament is over. Some combination of the A5 uniform package, including jersey, warm-up t-shirt, Training shirt, hoodies, and warmups is to be worn between matches. No School attire is allowed, nor are decorated team t-shirts and the like, within the competition venue. We want college coaches, our competition, parents and spectators to recognize the A5 brand.
18. Athletes are to wear A5 Practice T-shirts during Team practices. School Attire is not to be worn to or from practices, including hoodies, sweatshirts or sweatpants.
19. If any A5 Teams are playing at the same tournament site, athletes will be advised and Teams will be encouraged to watch and cheer for other A5 Teams.

Note: By Definition: Tournament begins when a team leaves from Atlanta and does not end until the Team returns to Atlanta.

USAV National Championships

1. It is the goal of A5 to send multiple teams in each age bracket to the USAV National Championships every year. Experience demonstrates that all of A5's 1st teams, most of our 2nd and many of our 3rd Teams will be contention each year for this honor. GA5 and A5 South are not far behind. These championships are conducted by USA Volleyball and are held in late June/early July in a predetermined city each year (e.g. New Orleans in 2015).
2. It is the Athlete/Family's responsibility **prior** to the Regional Competition to notify the Team's Head Coach if they are not willing or able to attend the National Championship tourney.

3. A5 reserves the right to add Athletes to a roster of a Team that has qualified for the National Championships in order to field a competitive team as permitted by the USAV Rules.
4. If a Team qualifies for the National Championships, all standard A5 Travel policies will apply to these travel situations, including: Hotel policies, Travel together policies, and Team meal policies. The only exception will be if a family is sending their Athlete via another city because of prior summer plans or if an Athlete is not returning with the Team because of prior summer plans.
5. All teams will all participate in tournaments in May and June as a lead-in to the National Championships. Even if they are not qualified, all of A5's "1" teams of any age and all teams of all three clubs aged 15 and up will participate in these tournaments.
6. The costs for attending the National Championship are NOT included in the stated player fees/travel budget and will be billed and collected separately.

National Team Competition

It is the intent of this Section to provide guidelines for coaches, parents and Athletes with regards to the opportunities A5 Athletes earn to play and on Junior National and National teams and such competition and training events.

1. A5 supports opportunities A5 club Athletes have to play and compete on Junior National and National teams.
2. A5 supports their Coaches in making appropriate lineup decisions based on their professional judgment with regard to roles on the team and playing time on the court.
3. Athletes who have the opportunity to play and compete on and for Junior National and National teams will retain their roles (including starting positions) upon their return to their respective club teams. Coaches, however, have the responsibility and the right to make lineup adjustments during the competition as they judge appropriate.
4. Open and continuous communication amongst Club, Athletes, and Parents is a must for this process to effectively accomplish the best possible outcomes for all parties involved.

Expulsions and Suspensions

While it is not the intent of A5 to suggest there will or could be problems, the Mission and integrity of A5 is foremost in our minds. Suspensions have been identified where appropriate in this document. The Head Coach and Director will evaluate all situations. Fairness to all is our objective; use your common sense in all situations. A5 will support the following:

Automatic expulsions will result for the following offenses:

- Smoking at any A5 function
- Using alcohol or drugs at any time during an A5 function
- Leaving lodging premises without notifying the Coach and without a chaperone
- Having members of the opposite sex in your room (other than relatives)
- If the Athlete has more than 8 absences (Subject to Coaching Director/Club Director Review)

Grievance/Escalation Procedure

The procedure outlined below is designed to help Athletes and Parents with questions, concerns or problems that may occur during the course of the season. It ensures Open and Honest Communication between all parties involved.

1. The Athlete must first ask for a meeting between the Coaches and herself to discuss the issue at hand. In the case of Athletes on 14's and younger Teams, the Parent may request the meeting.
2. If the issue is unresolved, the Parent may ask for a meeting between themselves and the Coaching Staff 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. Coaches are not to address these issues at Tournaments, and are told to advise the Director in the event that any of these conversations are started at a Tournament.**

3. If the issue is unresolved, the Parent should ask for involvement of the Team Board Member. A meeting can take place between the Team Board Member, Parent, Athlete and Coach. A scheduled time away from practice or a tournament is appropriate.
4. If the issue is unresolved, the Parent must ask for a meeting with the Club Director, Board Member, Parent, Athlete, and Coach. A scheduled time away from practice or a tournament is appropriate. The Decision of the Club Director at this point is FINAL.

Sign-Off Sheet – Bring this with you to Commitment Night

Athlete Name: _____

Age: _____

Team Name: _____

We, the parents/guardians of _____, have read the aforementioned information concerning the policies and practices of A5. We agree that having been selected to a team, to let her join A5 for the 2014 - 2015 club season. We have read the information provided and understand the time and commitment involved in the practice and competition schedule. We have reviewed the fee schedule and agree to pay all fees. We understand that, though Club fees are collected in four installments, **execution of this document obligates the parent for the full amount of the club fee, inclusive of uniform and travel costs.**

Understanding the stipulations and having discussed these with our child, we agree to and will support her participation in A5. We understand that once registered with and having participated with A5, the Athlete will be unable to transfer clubs.

I, _____, the athlete of A5, have read the aforementioned information concerning the policies and practices of A5 Volleyball and agree to follow these policies. I understand the commitment I am making to A5 and that if I should choose not to follow the policies as expressed above and any additional boundaries set forth by my coach, my playing time may be restricted and I risk expulsion from A5.

I, _____, the parent of an A5 athlete, have read the aforementioned information concerning the policies and practices of A5 Volleyball and agree to follow these policies. I understand the commitment I am making to A5 and that if I should choose not to follow the policies as expressed above and any additional boundaries set forth by the Team's Head Coach and/or the Director, I may be asked to leave the A5 program.

This Code of Conduct, together with any attachment(s), will be governed by the laws of the State of Georgia.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Athlete

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Parent/Guardian