

VOLLEYWOOD BEACH ACADEMY



VBA Playing Time Policy

Playing time is always a sensitive issue in team sports. We want your experience to be positive, so we feel setting clear expectations is important. This information is intended to communicate how the club handles the sensitive subject of playing time at tournaments. Athletes can expect that playing time will be managed differently depending on team, age, and level. The following guidelines are intended to allow families to read, acknowledge, and appreciate the complexities of club playing time and what development means at the competitive club level. The purpose of Volleywood Beach Academy's playing time policy is to document and communicate the club-wide guidelines in advance to ensure that those who commit to VBA understand what factors will be used to determine playing time over the course of the season. As well, the Club establishes a process whereby a player/parent can raise concerns, if they believe the coach is not implementing the policy consistently on their respective team. Whereas "house"-level programs advocate "equal playing time", the Club-level does not advocate equal playing time, rather "earned playing time." However, the Club does believe that all players should receive equal training opportunities at practice. In volleyball, there are four (4) types of games – scrimmages, pool-play, playoffs/medal-brackets, and regionals/qualifiers. Most players will receive some playing time during scrimmages and pool play at the discretion of the coach. However, in playoffs/medal-brackets and playoffs or regionals/qualifiers, the factors below will be used to determine playing time:

1. Ability to execute during competition
2. Ability to perform specific skills needed or play specific position during competition
3. Performance in practice (including skills, attitude and dedication)
4. Attendance/level of commitment to the team
5. Overall contribution, in whatever capacity, to the success of the team

Athletic propensity dictates what position a person plays, the performance in practice dictates how and when the player will be utilized in tournaments. Another factor that may influence court time is how the player adds to or distracts from the team's performance as compared to a teammate who plays the same position.

Equal playing time is not a guarantee simply because club fees are paid. The fee structure provides a learning experience and a whole host of other benefits (coaches, practice time, tournament fees, uniforms, gym rental, costs associated with running a club, etc.). During a tournament (i.e. game-day), coaches are constantly adjusting and evaluating line-ups, which means that some players will receive more court time than others. Players are expected to understand and accept their role as defined by the coach, and concede that the collective performance of the collective team has priority – over the individual player. Volleyball is a positional sport -- some positions naturally have more playing time than others. Coaches are not required to deliver a minimum playing time.

Being part of the club is intended to provide each player with improvement opportunities through structured practices and training that focus on skill development, team play, and mental toughness. We also believe players

must show every effort to improve and work through the challenges of improving. Sometimes, this process can be frustrating, but a player's work ethic and mental focus are key to becoming a better volleyball player, as well as conquering other challenges outside of volleyball. We believe improvement is first demonstrated at practice. Court sense, maturity, attitude, and abilities shown at practices will influence tournament playing time and team success.

Winning is an important part of the club performance. While VBA does not believe in winning at all costs, we do believe that players and teams who show a combination of positive mental attitude and physical ability will experience more success in matches. If players do not show respect for winning and the desire to win by improving and working hard at practices, and ensuring a positive attitude toward the game, their coach and teammates, then the team's ability to win is lessened. Playing time is likely to be adjusted for skills performance and mental attitude at practices and at games.

Under no circumstances is it permissible for a parent or player to approach a coach or director during competition or at a tournament site to discuss playing time. Players and parents are required to wait 24 hours after a tournament before initiating any type of communication with a coach regarding playing time issues. If a player is concerned or unclear about her role on the team, the player should initiate a meeting with her coach to discuss the matter either before or after practice.

Please sign and date below and return to your coach!

I have read and agree to follow the above rules:

Athlete Name: _____

Team: _____

Athlete Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date