



Miracle Strip
Volleyball Academy
Handbook
2009-10

THE PLEDGE AND PURPOSE OF MIRACLE STRIP VOLLEYBALL ACADEMY

Miracle Strip Volleyball Academy (MSVA) is a competitive program dedicated to:

1. Advancing the personal and athletic development of youth through the pursuit of excellence in volleyball.
2. Providing an understanding and appreciation of the rules and etiquette for volleyball.
3. Offering a support system for any player that chooses to take their game beyond the Academy.
4. Performing our duties with a level of professionalism that provides positive role models.
5. Fostering a love of the game. (Mission Statement)

The Board of Directors engages in a strategic planning program designed to define goals and set action items to meet our goals. The Pledge Statement is the road map for the Club. We recognize all coaches, athletes, and parents benefit from being committed to a progressive club that has a continuity of purpose in the pursuit of excellence. We pledge to do whatever it takes to create and support such a program.

We would like to affirm to you, the athletes and parents, that MSVA is committed to providing a program of excellence: excellence in the achievements of its athletes, excellence in consistently strong coaching and administration, and most importantly, excellence in opportunities for every athlete to develop into the best athlete they can be.

The Vision of Miracle Strip Volleyball Academy is to become the volleyball academy of choice for all athletes in Bay County and the surrounding areas. We will accomplish this by providing a high level of professionalism and commitment to MSVA across all aspects of the organization.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. While representing MSVA, all athletes are expected to behave in a responsible manner. Determination of what is responsible lies solely with the Academy and USAV-Gulf Coast Region.
2. Any athlete damaging equipment owned by MSVA, or any facility used by the Academy during practices, tournaments or other functions, or at lodging facilities, or in transportation vehicles, will be required to reimburse the Academy and/or facility for the damages before continuing in the Academy. In some circumstances, the athlete may be dismissed from the Academy.
3. No athlete will be allowed to participate during the current season if fees from the previous year are unpaid to MSVA.
4. Unless permission is given by the Director, no athlete will be allowed to participate during the current season if they were dismissed from the previous season.
5. An athlete with a delinquent account during the current season may be denied the privilege of playing in a tournament and/or asked to sit out at practice until the account is paid **or** arrangements are made with the Director.
6. The athlete's current season's account must be paid in full before the athlete will be allowed to participate in the last tournament of the season.
7. MSVA has the philosophy that playing time for all athletes is determined by the performance of the athlete, and is left to the discretion of the MSVA coach. This includes playing time at all tournaments. In keeping with our Pledge statement and Purpose, **WE DO NOT GUARANTEE EQUAL PLAYING TIME ON ANY TEAM OR AT ANY EVENT**, with the exception of developmental teams, where each player will play at least one game per match.
8. If your athlete makes a team, we expect MSVA practices and tournament to take priority over all other outside activities, with the exception of educational school activities unless permission is given by the Coach and Director. School sports are encouraged, but a level of commitment is expected to MSVA and other players.
9. An athlete on a travel team may not miss any tournaments without prior arrangement with the Coach and Director. The athlete should inform the Coach and Director at the time the tournament is chosen.
10. More than three unexcused absences from mandatory practices will result in dismissal from the team. The Coach may have non-mandatory practices during the holiday season, Spring Break, and Easter.

GOVERNANCE

The **Miracle Strip Volleyball Academy, Inc.** (EIN 59-3575295) is a public, non-profit organization, recognized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code and registered in the state of Florida. It is affiliated nationally with the United States Volleyball Association (USAV). All players, coaches and chaperones are registered and all tournaments are sanctioned. The competitive season is December through July and yearly membership is November 1st through October 31st.

The Academy is governed by a voluntary board of directors that meet quarterly to set bylaws and policies and more frequently during season to plan and implement various activities for the Academy. Any parent, player, or coach may submit items in writing for consideration by the board and/or may request to appear before the board at a regular meeting.

Board of Directors:

Robin Smith - **Chairman**
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 Home: (850) 784-9899

Nikki Conner - Treasurer
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Parent Member

Telnicial Ceasar – Secretary
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Each year a parent member is elected to the Board. The candidate first must agree to the nomination and then is elected by the academy members. Term is for one year.

TEAMS/ TEAM SELECTION

Membership is open to all area youth, regardless of prior experience and skills. No child is turned away that wants to play. Practices are designed to teach skills as well as assess current skills. Club practice for MSVA will be the first three Sundays in December. All players are expected to attend club practice so that coaches and directors can evaluate player talent and age development; numbers of players; and potential teams for the season. If numbers of players allow, MSVA would like to offer developmental and challenge teams for each age group.

Team selection will be made based on player, team and Academy needs. Selection will be guided by USAV GCR rules; followed by recommendations of coaches and directors. Age waivers to play outside of a player's age group will be evaluated on a case-by-case need with the final approval of the Board. Player and/or parents may request an age waiver.

PRACTICE/ TOURNAMENTS

Practice schedule -- two times a week for two hours each session. Players are to be at practice at least 15 minutes early, dressed out and ready to play, and assist with court set ups. Players also are expected to remain after practice until all equipment is properly stored and the gyms are clean.

Practice days and sites – In previous years, Thursdays and Sundays have worked the best for players and availability of gym sites. Every attempt will be made to accommodate the majority of player schedules and drive time. Remember that MSVA is dependent on the generosity of the school athletic directors for practice sites.

Practice attendance – Attendance at all practices by every player and coach is critical to the success of the Team. Coaches plan practice drills based on Team/Player needs, and the number of attendees. Consider all practices mandatory. Should a player not be able to attend, it is expected that the player contact the coach immediately by e-mail followed by a phone call.

Tournaments – Each team will be scheduled for 6 tournaments. A schedule of tournaments will be provided by January 15th. Again, the success of the Team is dependent on everyone attending the tournaments. By early notification, we expect that player and coaches schedules will be adjusted around tournament dates.

COMMUNICATION

For routine business, the majority of communication will be through e-mail and if necessary through phone calls. Therefore it is necessary for all members to check their e-mails frequently to stay current on MSVA happenings.

The Director, Board, or Coaches can all be reached by e-mail or phone.

Teams will also elect a team representative to facilitate team communication.

The club e-mail is msva_volleyball@hotmail.com and is monitored frequently by the Director.

FUNDRAISING

Team budgets are based on many factors—team members, costs for equipment and uniforms, coaches salary and expenses, tournament fees, GCR fees. Each year MSVA expenses go up and the budget gets tighter. To offset the costs passed on to player fees, MSVA plans several fundraising events that all levels of the organization are expected to participate in. Academy fundraisers include, but are not limited to:

- Condo Stay Raffle
- Spring Fling Tournament
- Gulf Coast Triathlon
- GCR Beach VB Series in June

Players are also offered the opportunity to fundraise for their individual fees through t-shirt advertisements and sponsorships.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Knowing when to communicate and how to communicate with your athlete's coach is a concern for almost every parent at some time during the season. Most often the concern is how to inquire about issues surrounding playing time.

We encourage the athlete to talk to the coach when she has a problem about her playing time, or if she is unclear about what the coach expects from her either in practice or in competition. The appropriate attitude is for the athlete to ask the coach what she needs to do to get more opportunities to play in matches. Parents can best help their athlete by helping her set goals to achieve more opportunities and encouraging their athlete to communicate with their coach. Coaches are not encouraged to speak to parents about an athlete's playing time, etc.

In addition, we instruct coaches not to discuss MSVA business or the actions of any other Club coach with any parent. If you, as a parent, have legitimate concerns about a coach other than your athlete's coach, or with an athlete other than your own, you need to address these concerns with the Director or Coaching Coordinator.

Specifically the procedures to follow if you have concerns about MSVA policies or actions are, in this order:

1. The athlete should speak to or meet with the coach about the matter. If the matter remains unresolved, or if the athlete has reasonable concern that has not been resolved by the coach, proceed to item two.
2. The parent should schedule a meeting with the Coach and the Director. Parents and/or athletes are expected to call the coach on the phone to set up a meeting. Meetings are to be at times and locations other than tournaments. If a parent during a tournament approaches a coach, we have instructed the coach to decline to discuss

any controversial matter. The recommended time for a parent and/or athlete to talk to a coach about a problem is a previously arranged meeting time either before or immediately after a scheduled practice.

3. The 24-hour Rule. The 24-hour rule is adapted from other successful businesses and clubs. Should an event occur that may be highly emotional or controversial, all participants with MSVA are encouraged to wait 24 hours before approaching the coach or director. This allows for a period of time for 'cooling off' and reflection of the events leading to the controversy.

4. If the parent and/or the athlete are not satisfied by the action taken by the Coach and the Director, they may request, in writing, that the Board of Directors review the matter. The Board may, at its sole discretion, review or refuse to review the matter. The Board will not review coaching decisions, training regimes, or skill development.

General policies regarding grievances with the Club are:

1. MSVA will not tolerate hostile, aggressive confrontations between a parent and any official, Coach, Director, Coordinator, Board Member, athlete, or other parent, whether the Coach, Director, Coordinator, Board member, athlete, or other parent is a member of MSVA or not. Violation of this policy may result in sanctions to the individual involved, which may include, but are not limited to, prohibition from attendance at team events, suspension or dismissal from MSVA.

2. It is inappropriate for an athlete or a parent to involve other parents or players in a problem the athlete or parent is having with a MSVA coach, or objections to coaching decisions, or disagreements with an administrative decision. Asking uninvolved persons to take sides in an issue is unfair to the third party and to the Club. Competitive team athletics, by its very nature, creates situations where everyone may not be happy all the time. For the psychological health of the teams and the Club as a whole, grievances need to be handled between the parties involved and the decision makers in the situation. Remember the 24-hour Rule.

3. Repetitive complaints or other negative behavior that interferes with the Club's efforts to pursue its stated pledge and purpose may be cause, in the sole determination of the Board, to dismiss a player, parent or coach. Inappropriate behavior should be reported immediately to the Coach or Director. All complaints will be investigated. If you have questions about MSVA policies or procedures, please do not hesitate to contact the Director.

INSURANCE AND INJURIES

Your USAV Gulf Coast Region membership will provide secondary medical coverage for injury at practice and tournaments. Please report any injuries to the coach immediately so that proper paperwork is filed.

The Board and staff welcome you to Miracle Strip Volleyball Academy. As a non-profit organization, we realize the importance of our community and member/parent support. Together we can provide a program that will build strong young athletes -- ladies that are prepared to meet the challenges of youth and adulthood.