

CLUB HANDBOOK

MILWAUKEE

RALLY



Welcome to the Milwaukee Rally Volleyball Club!!!

We are enthusiastic that you have decided to join our organization and are eager to get the season started. Enclosed you will find some important paperwork that should be completed promptly and **must be returned to me with the club fee prior to participating**

Please read & complete the paperwork contained in this packet and sign the acknowledgement form. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. The Milwaukee Rally is a member of the Badger Region of USAV volleyball and is governed by the Regions policies.

The Milwaukee Rally VBC requires that parents and players complete all paperwork and remit all fees before a player receives equipment and are allowed to practice or participate in the club.

It is my goal to use our Web site (www.milwaukeeerallyvbc.com) as a main means of communication on such items as team schedules, directions to tournaments and results of our matches. If you have any ideas, comments/concerns or wish to assist in our website please contact me. If you have any questions that you feel have not been addressed in this handbook, please contact me personally.

Thank you and have a GREAT Season!

Dennis Casey, Director
Milwaukee Rally Volleyball Club
director@milwaukeeerallyvbc.com

Philosophy & Goals

The Milwaukee Rally believes strongly that high school athletes should be able to participate in both High School and club sports. Milwaukee Rally does this by recognizing that High School athletics in season have the first priority for a Rally athlete. Milwaukee Rally does its best to support multi-sport athletes by offering a flexible, tailored approach to playing competitive club volleyball. Practices and tournament selection are geared as best as possible toward reducing scheduling conflict for the parent and player. Rally coaches endeavor to teach and train the sport of volleyball in an environment that emphasizes individual skill development within a strong team orientation.

Rally teams compete to win and are gracious in victory or defeat. Rally players realize what “leaving it all on the court” really means and therefore they never have to look back and wonder if the game or match outcome could have been different. Rally teams realize that their tournament play will be no better than their effort put forth in practice so they make the most out of their practice/learning time. Rally teams have fun because they know that they share the bonds of common interest, friendship and learning. We know that success is the outcome they will enjoy because of accepting coaching teaching, teamwork to blend on court abilities into a cohesive unit, individual effort to improve individual skills, sweat born from untiring effort and energy, mental toughness to make our opponents defeat us using their ability not our self induced errors and most of all they know that they will be successful because they already are.

Attendance & Participation

Philosophy-

The Rally exists to teach and train the sport of volleyball. To gain the most from the teaching and training you need to be in regular attendance and actively participate in practice and tournaments.

Attendance and more importantly active positive participation at practices and tournaments is a player expectation. If you are unable to attend a scheduled practice or tournament you must inform your coach no later than 24 hours in advance of the activity. We have taken our best efforts to do our best to minimize conflicts involving school events and other in season High School sport obligations in keeping with our club philosophy; however, this is not and should not be interpreted as a license for a player to indiscriminately decide to miss practice(s) or tournament(s). Should a coach determine that an attendance problem exists with a player they will discuss it with them and if the matter is not resolved the player can be removed from the club.

It is the responsibility of the athlete to confirm the time and location of the next practice or tournament.

Team Sizes and Age Levels

Philosophy-

The Rally endeavors to limit the size of our teams to no more than 10 athletes. This is done to afford each player the opportunity for the most individual attention in practice as well as playing time in tournaments (although remember tournament playing time is not a guarantee).

Each season the club does an assessment to determine how many teams and what age groups the club will field. The number of teams fielded each year is dependent upon three main factors: having enough quality coaches, having enough practice facilities (and gym time) and enough talented players.

Practices

Philosophy-

The Rally believes that practice is the real value of the club experience, basically practice builds better players not tournaments. Tournaments are simply a mechanism to judge what additional skills need to be worked on and which skills may have been mastered. Therefore attendance at all practices is extremely important. If an athlete cannot attend a practice the player needs to contact the coach at least 24 hours in advance of the practice informing them that they will not be attending and why. In these situations coaches accommodate as best they can and may change the emphasis of a particular practice accordingly. Repeatedly missing practice cannot be tolerated and if it persists the player may be removed from the club.

Players must to actively listen to coaching instructions/comments during practice and attempt to incorporate the instructions into their play. Teams need to assist in the set up and tear down of nets and equipment used during practice as requested by their coaches. This includes respecting facilities by assuring that all trash and clothing are picked up and handled appropriately.

Tournaments

Philosophy-

Teams participate in tournaments to allow coaches to assess individual player and overall team performance against age appropriate competition. Rally teams play to win. There is no guarantee of equal playing time for any player.

Selection Process-

Tournaments are selected by each team in conjunction with their coach based on a number of factors (not limited too):

- Distance to the event

Cost of the event
Level of Competition expected
Player's availability schedules
Coach's availability schedule

Tournaments must be committed to early in the club season. This means that parents and players must look forward into their schedules to provide the proper input to the team tournament selection process. Teams should do their best to accommodate schedules such that as many players as possible can attend.

Number and Type of Tournaments-

A typical Rally tournament season includes between 7-9 ("local"- In Badger Region) tournaments. There are situations in which the players and their parents may desire to add additional tournaments above what the club would typically provide in a season. In such situations if the coach is available and willing and the parents pay the appropriate fees the club will expand their tournament schedule.

National and Qualifier Tournaments are special cases in that a particular team has the ability and is willing to fund their participation in such events. **The Rally does not automatically include National and Qualifier Tournaments in our general fees.** The Rally supports such participation but does not mandate it. Our approach is based on trying to stay true to our philosophy of keeping the season costs as affordable to all parents as possible. A team that desires to compete at a National or Qualifier Tournament must be able to field a full team with substitutes in order to enter. If the team cannot agree upon participation (i.e. the team has 8 players and 5 want to go and 3 do not) then the team will not be allowed to participate.

The Rally Club Director has the final decision on all tournament participation matters.

Player Tournament Duties-

Referee-

The Milwaukee Rally believes strongly that all of its players and coaches must take their referee duties seriously. Officiating is the shared responsibility of the entire team. All athletes involved in officiating duties are required to be focused and attentive during their duties. Absolutely no cell phones, IPOD's or other electronic devices are to be used while on officiating duty. NO player will be allowed to leave a tournament until all officiating responsibilities are completed.

Players splitting officiating duties during a match must monitor the match's progress to assure that they are on time when it is their turn to officiate.

Clean up-

Teams need to make certain that they properly remove all trash at bench side after completion of their match

Parent Tournament Expectations-

Parents are responsible for arranging to have their athlete to the tournament site on time and ready to participate. This means all appropriate volleyball clothing and equipment. Positively support your athlete, team and coach. Adhere to all facilities rules, regulations and fees.

Club Fees

Philosophy-

The Rally strives to make each players club season experience a quality and affordable one. The Rally fees are comprehensive for the entire Rally season.

Fees for the 2011-12 Season-

Milwaukee Rally VBC fees are \$900.

What Fees cover-

Club fees include: individual player USVA membership; 7-9 local tournament entry fees; equipment (balls, etc), conditioning, player clothing (determined each season and may vary from season to season), coaches, and practice facility fees.

What is not covered-

Parents/Players are individually responsible for any/all costs related to travel, hotel, meals and event admission costs.

Players are responsible for supplying their own **black spandex** shorts, **white knee pads**, **white long socks and proper footwear**. No team name, color or graphic is allowed on the spandex (brand name such as Mizuno is ok).

Additional branded clothing items are available for purchase but are not included in the season fees.

Fee Payment-

Club fees are payable in one installment at the beginning of the season. We realize that the timing of the start of the club season coincides with the main Holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas. We therefore allow parents to break their club payment into two installments with the first installment due on or before the mandatory parent/player meeting and the second one due **NO** later than January 15. Parent's that may have a unique financial situation that would prohibit them from keeping to the payment schedule, they need to discuss it immediately with the club Director and work out a mutually agreed upon payment plan.

Failure to pay club fees when due or agreed to is grounds for expulsion from the club. Parents should know that should any club fees go unpaid, their child's name(s) will be submitted to the Badger Region and that player will be precluded from participating with any other Badger Region team until any past financial obligation is resolved.

Policies of Milwaukee Rally VBC

Parent/Player Personal Conduct:

- Parents and players must provide email and telephone information that is current and often accessed by both. All club communication is done via email. Failure to check email is not a valid excuse for missing important club related information.
- Use of social network web sites: The Milwaukee Rally does not “police” such sites but should material (links, photos, etc.) be brought to the attention of the club that casts the Milwaukee Rally in an improper way, seeks to undermine it’s the club’s reputation or shows a Rally player in an improper situation, setting or in violation of our zero tolerance policy regarding drugs, alcohol or tobacco use will result in disciplinary action toward the player(s) involved/shown or responsible for such postings. Rally players should take great care in the use of such sites to avoid any possible issues.
 - Use of Milwaukee Rally email addresses or other personal information (those of players, parents, coaches) is strictly prohibited. If such access is needed the permission of the Club Director must be obtained prior to use.
- There is a **zero tolerance for drugs, alcohol or tobacco use**. Players will be immediately removed from their team and the club should the club become aware of such situations and be able to confirm that a violation occurred- No Refunds will be granted.
- A also is a zero tolerance for any Rally player or parent responsible for any physical damage to Rally equipment, practice facilities or theft of items from a teammate or any venue. Immediate removal from the Club will result.
- Athletes and parents are to refrain from the use of foul or profane language on or off the court
- Player and parent conduct and attitude must be positive toward referees, tournament officials, coaches and teammates at all times. If negative or abusive situations occur/persist the player may be asked to leave the club with NO Refund.
- Players will be charged for all replacement apparel (apparel necessary to participate such as jersey, play T’s etc). It is not the club or coach’s responsibility to account for players belongings.
- Players will set up and tear down nets and place away properly at each practice facility.
- Players will properly score, line judge or perform any such activity as needed by the coach during a tournament. This includes staying for any final matches that may require team officiating.
- Players must report all physical injuries or illness to their coach immediately
- Players are expected to abide by all curfews established for any over night travel situations.
- Athletes must wear appropriate volleyball equipment at all practices, scrimmages and tournaments. Volleyball Knee Pads and shoes (player supplied) must be worn at all practices and tournaments at all times. Failure to have the appropriate equipment will prevent that player from participating in practice or tournaments.

- Players need to be on time for practice and tournaments.
- All players are responsible for their own transportation to and from practices, tournaments and any Rally sponsored activity. Players that are Wisconsin licensed drivers that drive themselves to and from Rally activities assume all risks and responsibilities for/in doing so.
- All parents and players must abide by any facility rules communicated by the facility. This often deals with but is not limited to, the bringing in your own food “coolers” or the payment of admission fees.
- Under no condition should a Coach/Director be contacted by a parent or player about a grievance during a practice or tournament. Such situations should be arranged by appointment outside of such activities.
- Athletes and (Parents for that matter) are to refrain from the use of physical force outside of the rules of the game
- Always respect your opponents, your coach, your teammates and game officials
- Excessive tardiness or unexcused absences hurt your team and cannot be tolerated.
- Complete compliance with tournament rules regarding use of the facility; ie. Bringing in food and beverages; admission fees, etc.

In addition to the above policies, the following policies of USA Volleyball are hereby adopted into the Milwaukee Rally VBC policies and procedures and will be enforced with the same penalties and/or discipline as outlined by USA Volleyball:

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS ARE PROHIBITED:

- Possession, consumption or distribution of alcohol and/or tobacco if illegal or in violation of USA Volleyball (USAV) or Regional Volleyball Association (RVA) policy.
- Possession, consumption or distribution of alcohol and/or tobacco by anyone registered as a Junior Olympic Volleyball Player at the event venue of any USAV/RVA sanctioned junior event.
- Use of a recognized identification card by anyone other than the individual described on the card.
- Physical damage to a facility or theft of items from a room, dormitory, residence or other person. (Restitution will be part of any penalty imposed.)
- Possession of fireworks, ammunition, firearms, or other weapons or any item or material which by commonly accepted practices and principles would be a hazard or harmful to other persons at USAV/RVA sanctioned events.

- Any action considered to be an offense under Federal, State or local law ordinances.
- Violation of the specific policies, regulations, and/or procedures of the USAV, RVA or the facility used in conjunction with a sanctioned event. (It is the responsibility of the individual to be familiar with applicable specific policies, regulations and procedures.)
- Conduct which is inappropriate as determined by comparison to normally accepted behavior.
- Physical or verbal intimidation of any individual.
- Actions that will be detrimental to USAV, RVA or the Milwaukee Rally VBC.

Any violation of the terms and conditions in the participant's Membership Agreement with USA Volleyball shall constitute grounds for discipline with the Milwaukee Rally VBC as well, regardless of the disposition of any discipline by USA Volleyball. Such disciplinary action shall be within the sole discretion of Milwaukee Rally VBC and its officers, directors, coaches and staff.

Financial:

- If for **ANY** reason, a player leaves the Milwaukee Rally VBC before the end of the season, **ANY OUTSTANDING FEES** are immediately due and payable. The athlete cannot play for any other Badger Region Club until the next open tryout period within the Badger Region. If fees are not paid then the player may be placed on a Badger Region list that prevents them from playing in future seasons until past financial obligations are taken care of.
- All dues and fees paid are **nonrefundable irrespective of reason, no exceptions.**
- All travel related arrangements and costs associated with getting to and from practices, scrimmages, tournaments or other Milwaukee Rally activities is the sole responsibility of the individual athlete or there family.
- If there is a need for overnight stays by players, parents and coaches, all players must stay with their parent or a parent authorized (in writing) by the parent. At no time will any player stay with a coach (male or female) unless that player is a child of that coach.

General:

- Milwaukee Rally is not responsible for any injury that may occur to any player or parent while involved in any/all Milwaukee Rally activities.
- Milwaukee Rally supports and is bound by all Badger Region and USA Volleyball policies.

- Players should not wear any jewelry to practices or tournaments. Loss of stolen jewelry or other personal items is not the responsibility of the coach or the Milwaukee Rally VBC. Players are discouraged from bringing electronic or other such items to practice or tournaments to help prevent loss or theft. Loss or theft of such items is the sole responsibility of the player.
- Athletes are expected to work hard at practices and in tournament games irrespective of game score or importance.
- Playing time for any player is determined by the coach for that team. Participation in tournaments is **EARNED** by proper participation in team practices and activities. Milwaukee Rally will attempt to provide as much playing time as possible during any given tournament however, many factors enter into playing time **including but not limited to** player attitude, playing position, practice attendance, volleyball aptitude and prior game/practice performance. There is no guaranteed playing time during any match and coaches are free to play whomever they choose in whatever capacity they feel appropriate. Decisions about court time are the sole discretion of the Milwaukee Rally Volleyball club through team coaches.
- Parents picking up their players after practice are asked to be prompt so coaches are not left waiting with the player for parents to arrive.

Ethics/Code of Conduct

Parents, guardians, and players must comply and follow USAV rules regarding all court, gym, tournament, and club rules of decorum and etiquette. Each athlete and parent will be expected to follow the rules and regulations outlined in this handbook. Athletes should always remember that they represent themselves **and** the Milwaukee Rally Volleyball Club!

Competitive team athletics by their very nature create situations where everyone may not be happy all the time. 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. If during the course of the season, you should have any issues, we encourage all players to communicate first with their coach and take an active role in resolving any issue using the following steps.

Step One- Seek to understand about your daughters feelings and criticisms without putting down the coach

Step Two- Help your daughter develop a clear understanding of the circumstances that gave rise to the problem by having her set up a meeting with the coach. Help prepare her for the meeting so that she can best communicate her issues and feelings

Step Three- If the player's initiative with the coach results in an unsatisfactory resolution. Set up a meeting with your daughter, yourself and the coach to get clarification of the problem.

Last Resort- Parents should meet with the coach in a private setting where there are no distractions and the two parties can conduct a meaningful conversation. Each side should present and discuss the issues and work toward a positive resolution. If, and only if, after all of the above steps have been exhausted and the issue is still not successfully resolved will the Club Director become involved.

The Club Director will hear both sides of the issue and render a final decision which is binding.

All Milwaukee Rally coaches have the best interests of each player and the TEAM at the forefront at all times. Coaches are instructed to not discuss “coaching decisions” with anyone other than Club Management. These coaching decisions include but are not limited to specific match decisions such as who played when, where and how long and who was subbed out and when. Coaches are not required to defend their judgments and decisions about playing time.

Coaches will utilize a four step disciplinary process when circumstances warrant:

Step One- Verbal Warning given by coach to the player

Step Two- 2nd. Verbal Warning is given by coach to the player with a note to the Parent and Club Director explaining the issue and the expected resolution.

Step Three- Should the issue continue Suspension- for a single practice, tournament or set period of time will be imposed as determined by the Coach in consultation with the Director.

Step Four- Expulsion from the Club may occur if the issue persists after steps 1-3 have been exhausted.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

If it is in the best interest of the program, a player may be moved from one team to another based on one or more of the following: position; skill level; attitude; needed for tournament play; loss of player from another team, etc. The coaching staff will have the authority, with Director and parents of the affected player’s approval, to move a player up at any time during the season. This is only done in situations that we believe are in the best interest of the player and the club.

Acknowledgement of Milwaukee Rally VBC Handbook

This page must be signed and dated by the legal guardian and the participating athlete.

Parent/ Guardian:

I, _____, the Parent/Legal guardian for _____ have read and understand the Milwaukee Rally Handbook. I agree and will comply with all the policies/regulations set forth in this handbook. As evidence by my signature, I certify that I have read and understand all of the foregoing and consent to abide by the rules as set forth herein. I further understand that I have been informed of the Badger Region Tryout Policy and I understand that any commitment I make either verbal or in writing is for the full season.

In addition, I certify that as Parent/Guardian for this participant, I have explained to my daughter the aforementioned stipulated conditions and their ramifications, and I consent to her participation in the programs conducted under USAV, Badger Region Volleyball Association and Milwaukee Rally Volleyball Club in which she is a member. I further agree to hold harmless the Milwaukee Rally Volleyball Club, its officers and coaches regarding my daughter's participation in any and all events/activities/practices/tournaments my daughter participates in. Lastly, I agree to promptly pay the fees set forth by the Milwaukee Rally Volleyball Club, allowing my child to participate in the club.

Legal Guardian Signature: _____

Print : _____

Date: _____

Athlete:

I, _____, have read and understand the Milwaukee Rally Handbook. I agree and will comply with all the policies set forth in this handbook.

Athlete Signature: _____

Print : _____

Date: _____

Club Director Signature: _____

Date: _____

Club Copy

Acknowledgement of Milwaukee Rally VBC Handbook

This page must be signed and dated by the legal guardian and the participating athlete.

Parent/ Guardian:

I, _____, the Parent/Legal guardian for _____ have read and understand the Milwaukee Rally Handbook. I agree and will comply with all the policies/regulations set forth in this handbook. As evidence by my signature, I certify that I have read and understand all of the foregoing and consent to abide by the rules as set forth herein. I further understand that I have been informed of the Badger Region Tryout Policy and I understand that any commitment I make either verbal or in writing is for the full season.

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Legal Guardian Signature: _____

Print : _____

Date: _____

Athlete:

I, _____, have read and understand the Milwaukee Rally Handbook. I agree and will comply with all the policies set forth in this handbook.

Athlete Signature: _____

Print : _____

Date: _____

Club Director Signature: _____

Date: _____

Player Copy

Waiver / Liability Release

Player Name: _____

(Please Print)

I acknowledge that volleyball or any sporting event is an extreme test of a person's physical and mental limits and that my participation in a volleyball practice, conditioning, tournament or event can cause potential death, serious injury, or property damage.

With a full understanding of the potential risks, I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE NAMED PERSONS OR ENTITIES listed below or others, and assume full responsibility for my participation. I hereby take the following action for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, successors and assigns:

- a) I WAIVE, RELEASE, AND DISCHARGE from any and all claims or liabilities for death or personal injury or damages of any kind which arise out of or relate to my traveling to and from or my participation in any volleyball event; and
- b) I AGREE NOT TO SUE any of the named persons or entities listed below for any of the claims or liabilities that I have waived, released or discharged herein; and
- c) I INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS the named persons or entities mentioned below from any claims made or liabilities assessed against them as a result of my actions.

NAMED PERSONS OR ENTITIES: Milwaukee Rally VBV and its Regional Volleyball Associations, tournament directors, sponsors, and the owners, officers, directors, employees, sub-contractors, representatives, and agents of any of the above.

In addition to the above limit of liability and waiver, the Milwaukee Rally VBC also incorporates the following language adopted from the the participant's USA Volleyball membership application:

I acknowledge that volleyball or any sporting event is an extreme test of a person's physical and mental limits and that my participation in a volleyball event can cause potential death, serious injury, or property damage. **With a full understanding of the potential risks, I HEREBY ASSUME THE RISKS OF PARTICIPATING OR OFFICIATING IN A VOLLEYBALL EVENT.**

I hereby take the following action for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, successors and assigns: a) **I WAIVE,**

Milwaukee Rally VBC

RELEASE, AND DISCHARGE from any and all claims or liabilities for death or personal injury or damages of any kind, **EXCEPT THAT WHICH IS THE RESULT OF GROSS NEGLIGENCE AND/OR WANTON MISCONDUCT OF PERSONS OR ENTITIES LISTED BELOW**, which arise out of or relate to my traveling to and from or my participation in any volleyball event, **THE FOLLOWING PERSONS OR ENTITIES: Milwaukee Rally VBC**, USA Volleyball and its Regional Volleyball Associations, tournament directors, sponsors, and the officers, directors, employees, representatives, and agents of any of the above; b) **I AGREE NOT TO SUE** any of the persons or entities listed above for any of the claims or liabilities that I have waived, released or discharged herein; and c) **I INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS** the persons or entities mentioned above from any claims made or liabilities assessed against them as a result of my actions.

Players Signature (regardless of age): _____ **Date Signed:** _____

If player is under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian must execute in addition to the foregoing Waiver / Liability Release form, the following, for and on behalf of the minor. The undersigned parent and natural guardian or legal guardian of the player executes the foregoing Waiver / Liability Release Form for and on behalf of the minor named herein. I hereby bind myself, the minor and all other assigns to the terms of the Waiver / Liability Release Form. I represent that I have legal capacity and authority to act for and on behalf of the minor named herein, and I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the named persons or entities named in the Waiver / Liability Release Form for any claims or liabilities assessed against them as a result of any insufficiency of my legal capacity or authority to act for and on behalf of the minor in the execution of the Waiver / Liability Release Form.

Parent / Guardian's Signature: _____ **Date Signed:** _____

Printed Name of Parent / Guardian: _____