

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 is allowed to practice or participate in the club.

It is my goal to use our Web site (www.milwaukeerallyvbc.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
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414-732-3531

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. Milwaukee Rally does its best to support multi-sport athletes by offering a flexible, tailored club approach to playing competitive volleyball. Practices and tournament selection are geared as best as possible toward reducing scheduling conflict for the parent and player. This being said, some conflicts are inevitable in which case the player and parent will need to do their best to understand. 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 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

Attendance and more importantly active positive participation at practice and tournaments is expected. This is especially important given the flexibility that we extend to our players. Having less practices hours than some other clubs places a premium on the time we do have, so if you are unable to attend a scheduled practice or tournament please inform your coach no later than 48 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. It is the responsibility of the athlete to confirm the time and location of the next practice or event. Each team meets as a team and discusses the tentative team tournament play schedule.

TEAM SIZES AND AGE LEVELS

Each season an assessment is done to determine how many teams and what age groups will be formed. The number of teams is dependent upon three main criteria having a quality coach, proper practice facilities and enough talented players. We like to limit the size of our teams to afford each player the opportunity for the most individual attention in practice as well as playing time (although remember playing time is not a guarantee).

PRACTICES

The Rally believes that practice is the real value of the club experience. Tournaments are simply a mechanism to judge what additional skills need to be worked on and which skills may have been mastered. Therefore practicing is very important. Due to our multi-sport athlete participation philosophy it sometimes means that some players may be absent from practice. This is also why each player that will not be able to attend a given practice needs to contact the coach in advance of the practice informing them that they

will not be attending. In these situations coaches accommodate as best they can and may change the emphasis of a particular practice accordingly.

Players need to actively listening to coaching instructions/comments and attempt to incorporate the instructions into their play.

TOURNAMENTS

Tournaments are selected by each team in conjunction with the 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 all players can attend.

A typical Rally tournament season includes 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 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. We approach it this way out of trying to stay true to our philosophy of keeping the season costs affordable to all parents. 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.

CLUB FEES

The Rally strives to make each players club season experience a quality and affordable one. There are many factors that go into club fees; many of them are not always obvious to the player and parent. The ability to sustain the club from year to year as well as replenish supplies etc gets more expensive each year as costs rise and the club grows.

Milwaukee Rally VBC fees for the 2008-2009 Season are \$900. This fee includes: individual player USVA membership; 7-9 local tournament fees; player clothing (determined each season and may vary) and coaches and practice facility fees.

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

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).

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

POLICIES OF MILWAUKEE RALLY VBC

1. 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. If this should happen the player cannot play for any other club until the next open tryout period.
2. All dues and fees paid are **nonrefundable irrespective of reason, no exceptions**
3. Players will be charged for all lost apparel. It is not the coach's responsibility to account for players belongings.
4. All checks should be made payable to: **Milwaukee Rally VBC.**
5. Athletes must wear appropriate volleyball equipment at all practices, scrimmages and tournaments. White Volleyball Knee Pads (player supplied) must be worn at all practices and tournaments at all times.
6. Milwaukee Rally is not responsible for any injury that may occur to any player or parent while involved in Milwaukee Rally activities.
7. All players are responsible for their own transportation to and from practices and tournaments. Players that are Wisconsin licensed drivers may drive themselves to and from activities with the permission of their parents and assume all risks in doing so.
8. All parents and players must abide by any facility rules communicated by the facility. This often deals with the allowance of bringing in your own food "coolers" or the payment of admission fees.
9. Players need to be on time for practice
10. All travel related arrangements and costs for practices, scrimmages, tournaments or other Milwaukee Rally activities is the sole responsibility of the individual athlete or there family.
11. If there is a need for traveling overnight 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 a child of that coach.
12. Parents picking up their players after practice are asked to be prompt so coaches are not left waiting.
13. Milwaukee Rally supports all Badger Region and USA Volleyball policies.
14. 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 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.
15. 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.**
16. 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.
17. Players should not wear any jewelry to practices or tournaments. Lost or stolen jewelry or other personal item 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. Loss or theft of such items is the sole responsibility of the player.

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, I 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 setting where there are no distractions. Each opinion should be discussed and positively resolved. If, and only if, after all of the above steps have been exhausted and the issue is not successfully resolved will the Club Director become involved. This step is not individually called out in the sequence because it removes the symptom but the real problem may still remain.

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 and it is improper for a parent to request it.

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 given by coach to the player with a note to the Club Director

Step Three- Suspension- for a single practice, tournament or set period of time as determined by the Coach and Director.

Step Four- Expulsion from the Club

ADDITIONAL PLAYER/PARENT EXPECTATIONS

- There is a **zero tolerance for drugs, alcohol or tobacco use**. Players will be immediately removed from the team should the club become aware of such situations- No Refunds will be granted.
- Athletes are to refrain from the use of foul or profane language on or off the court
- Refrain from the use of physical force outside of the rules of the game
- Athletes are expected to work hard at practices and in tournament games irrespective of game score or importance.
- Always respect your opponents, your coach, your teammates and game officials.
- Excessive tardiness or unexcused absences hurt your team and cannot be tolerated.
- A zero tolerance policy exists for physical damage to a facility or theft of items from a team mate or any venue.
- Complete compliance with tournament rules regarding use of the facility; ie. Bringing in food and beverages; admission fees, etc.
- 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.

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

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Athlete Signature: _____

Print : _____

Date: _____

Club Director Signature: _____

Date: _____

Player Copy