



## Welcome to OTVA

In September 2015, Orlando Volleyball Academy (OVA) and Tampa Bay Volleyball Academy (TBVA) merged their nationally successful volleyball clubs to create the largest volleyball club in the United States.

In August 2017, OTVA added two additional prominent clubs: Tampa Elite in the Tampa Bay area and Wave in the Bradenton/Sarasota area. In August 2018, OTVA added No Fear and MOVA in Jacksonville and Sideout in Palm Beach.

During the 2018-2019 season, the club had approximately 125 teams and 1,300 players. OTVA qualified 25 teams to the USAV National Championship – the most ever by a club in USAV history. OTVA operates eight facilities in Orlando, Longwood, Oviedo, Tampa, Sarasota, Jacksonville and Palm Beach. The goal of the combined club is to provide the finest coaching and training available in the country, whether it be for elite players or beginners. During its 22 seasons, the club has won 37 National Championships, the most of any club in Florida.

To date, 400 members of the club have moved on to play in college. In 2019, approximately 40 members will graduate and begin playing in college this fall.

**The directors and staff of OTVA welcome you to the finest junior volleyball program in the country!**

### **OTVA MISSION STATEMENT:**

The OTVA volleyball program is dedicated to providing its players with the technical, tactical, and physical training to reach their highest possible potential. The program is equally dedicated to the highest standards of personal integrity, mutual respect, and responsible conduct. We strive to help each and every player, regardless of the age or ability, to achieve life-changing growth in physical skills and personal character as they play the game of volleyball.

### ***“Success Begins with a Positive Attitude”***

OTVA has established a volleyball program that is recognized as one of the finest youth programs in the country. We consider ourselves elite. To continue this tradition, a positive commitment from coaches, players, and parents is required.

Our coaching staff must be committed to have up to date knowledge to teach the fundamentals of the game and the ability to motivate our players to their maximum level of performance. They must have patience and, above all, the ability to communicate with positive reinforcement and to assist each player in any way possible to achieve the goals established by that player.

Our players must be committed to the program as established by the coaching staff, to practice and play with competitive attitudes, and to maintain good sportsmanship at all times. Finally, our parents must be committed to the program as established by the coaching staff and should maintain a positive attitude toward the program at all times. Parents must eliminate their own ego from the process and see the game without parental eyes. Parents should become knowledgeable of the game to understand how it is played and appreciate the efforts of ALL of the players. It is extremely important to the maintenance of our program and to the accomplishment of our goals that coaches, players, and parents maintain a positive attitude. So much can be accomplished if we believe in and are committed to the same system.

### **GOALS:**

- \* To develop interest and encourage participation in the sport of volleyball for girls and boys 6 years old through high school seniors.
- \* To provide players with the most advanced training.
- \* To encourage and help players pursue higher education by providing maximum exposure to collegiate volleyball programs.
- \* To be recognized as the finest youth volleyball program in the nation.

### **OTVA Management Team**

Robert Gries, Owner  
Tanya Jarvis-Starrett, Club Director, South Facility Director  
Felix Viera, Longwood Facility Director  
Cynthia Ortega, Longwood Facility Director  
Laura Praetorius, Tampa Facility Director/Coaching  
Laurinda Nguyen, Tampa/Administration  
Matthew McElhiney, Sarasota Facility Director  
Ashley Schinzing, Orlando Gold VBC Director  
Will Berdecia, Jacksonville Facility Director  
Gil Bermudez, Jacksonville Facility Director  
Katie George, Palm Beach Facility Director  
Alex Clarke, Palm Beach Administration

## **GENERAL POLICIES:**

OTVA is a nationally renowned AAU and USAV program. We expect our players to act in a courteous manner throughout the season. Players disobeying either club or USAV rules, or acting in a manner deemed inappropriate by the staff, may be disciplined or expelled from OTVA. If expulsion from the program is required, there will be no financial reimbursement, and remaining club fees will still be due.

Any member found to be in the possession of alcohol, tobacco, vaping, or illegal drugs may be immediately expelled from the program. Any member determined to be stealing or bullying may also be immediately expelled from the program.

To promote team and program unity, all players are required to wear the assigned practice uniforms at all practices and full game uniforms at all tournaments. Team uniforms do not include jewelry, wristbands, or headbands. Pants or shorts are to be worn over spandex outside of the gym.

OTVA does not permit players to be released to other clubs.

## **PRACTICE POLICIES:**

Please be on time for practice. Transportation to all practices and competition is the responsibility of the players and their parents. We have limited gym space and to avoid another team's practice starting late or your practice running short, every player must be dressed, warmed up, and ready to begin at the practice time listed.

All players are required to wear OTVA practice apparel to practice. If your team has more than one color shirt, make sure that everyone knows which color to wear on which practice days. Each team is required to wear the same practice t-shirt at practice. Players that forget their practice shirt will be required to buy a new practice shirt.

Players must call their coach at least one hour before practice if they will not be in attendance. Players who miss practice are missing valuable information and training time and, potentially, may have their playing time decreased. To emphasize player responsibility, we do not want parents to call on behalf of their child (with the exception of the 10 and under parents/players).

## **CLOSED PRACTICE POLICY:**

The club maintains a policy of practices being closed to parents, regardless of age. We believe that this creates a much more professional and positive learning environment for your child as well as reduce the inevitable negative comments which ultimately come from some parents.

Our coaches also prefer closed practices. It is a significant time commitment for coaches to give up seven months of their year and the most common reason that coaches don't coach club volleyball is due to interference from parents. This, in turn, demoralizes coaches. We have therefore found that coaches are more productive in a closed practice environment.

We also believe that the vast majority of players learn more and perform better without the constant influence of parents.

We have attempted to make each of our facilities comfortable and equip them with Wi-Fi, cable TV and other amenities for your pleasure.

The closed practice policy applies to weekly practices but does not apply to our typical Friday night scrimmages in which parents are welcome.

- All teams that practice only twice a week will be permitted to watch the last 30 minutes of the second practice a week.
- For 10 & 11's, parents may watch practices during the months of November and December.
- All 12 & older teams parents may watch the first practice of each month, beginning in December.
- A schedule of open practices will be made available to you.
- All Mini-club practices are open to parents.

## **CLUB RELEASE POLICY**

OTVA does not permit releases to other clubs.

**Release Policy:** A change in geographical location of the family due to a change in job, military, scholastic or inner-collegiate status may receive special consideration. No player may participate in different USAV Qualifying events with different clubs/teams. Once

an athlete has participated in a National Qualifier Event (Regional or NQ) they may not be released for the rest of the season to another club.

### **TOURNAMENT POLICIES:**

- Every player will be offered training through practices. Playing time, however, is determined at the discretion of the OTVA coaching staff and is based on a variety of factors, including but not limited to, a lineup for each competition that will lead to success on the court.
- All players are required to wear OTVA issued apparel upon entering and leaving the gym.
- Food and beverage rules must be strictly adhered to. The Florida Region rules allow a tournament director to penalize teams if parents and/or supporters ignore this rule.
- All players are expected to attend every tournament, including the AAU Nationals in June.
- If a player cannot be at a tournament, she must inform the coach as soon as she knows she will be absent so that the coach can make appropriate changes to practices or lineups. It is the player's (not the parent's) responsibility to make arrangements with the coach.
- Players may not leave a tournament site until excused by the coach.
- Tape for Players at Tournaments: If your player needs to be taped during a tournament, please note you will need to provide your own pre-wrap and tape. It will also generally be available at tournaments for \$5 a roll.
- **Phones (at curfew)** – This policy applies only to players 15-18 that are rooming together. Our coaches will collect phones from players rooming together and return them in the morning. The purpose of this policy is so that players immediately go to sleep which they will otherwise not do if they are permitted to keep their phones. Therefore, there are two important things for parents to know:
  - First, we will generally collect the phones around 9 to 9:30pm (unless it is a PM wave) so you need to make sure to contact your daughter prior to that time if you need to speak with her. In the event of an emergency, you can always contact the coach.
  - Second, we have instructed all girls to put a notecard of emergency phone numbers on a card and leave it in their backpacks at all times. The emergency phone numbers should include your own number, their coaches and anyone else you think is important. Therefore, in the event of an emergency, they can use the hotel phone to contact you or their coaches. **WE ARE ASKING YOU TO PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR DAUGHTER FOLLOWS THIS POLICY AND HAS SUCH A LIST IN HER BACKPACK.**
- **Rooming Policy** – We encourage players 15-18 to room together to build camaraderie. Red teams 15-18 are required to room together at only the USAV Qualifiers and the USAV Nationals. Players may room with their parents at all other tournaments. All other 15-18 teams may room together if they so choose at all tournaments. All players 14 & under are required to room with their parents.
- Parents are not permitted to discuss playtime, coaching philosophies, or any other volleyball issues with their coaches at a tournament. If a parent is upset about something with a team, he/she must wait until the day after the tournament ends before communicating with the coaches – unless it is an issue concerning school or safety. Under no circumstances may a parent contact the coach while at a tournament. If further problems arise, please contact the Directors of the club who may schedule a meeting with the Coach, Directors, and parents together.

### **OTVA DISPUTE/GRIEVANCE POLICY & PROCEDURES**

OTVA encourages the player to first talk to the coach when the player has a problem with playing time. If the player is unsure or unclear about what the coach expects, either in practice or in competition, the appropriate action is for the player to communicate with the coach as to what the player needs to do to get more opportunities to play in matches or at another position.

Coaches WILL NOT discuss “coaching decisions.” Coaching decisions include, among other examples, specific match decisions (who played when, who was subbed in/out and when, etc.). Playtime is a very complex determination. It includes the coach's opinion, the player's ability, the player's potential, the team's needs/game strategy at the moment, the momentum of the game, the number of subs remaining, and the team's needs for the future. The coach will not be required to defend his/her thought process or conclusions in these determinations, and it is improper for a parent to make such a request.

In addition, OTVA instructs coaches not to discuss any player other than the parent's own or the actions of any other OTVA coach. If you, as a parent, have legitimate concerns about a coach other than your player's coach, or with a player other than your own, you should contact your facility director.

The parent or player **SHOULD NOT**:

1. Confront a coach during a practice or during tournaments.
2. Expect meetings to be set during practice or tournament participation.

3. Attempt to “compare” or evaluate another player.
4. Use profanity towards the coach.
5. Harass or threaten the coach.
6. Discuss their concerns with any other parents or players until resolved with the coach.
7. Contact coaches at any time in violation of this policy.
8. Make comments to or about players while attending tournaments.

**POLICY ORDER:**

1. The athlete should first speak to the coach about the matter. If the matter remains unresolved, or the athlete has a reasonable concern that speaking to the coach will not resolve the matter, then move on to Step 2.
2. The parents should speak or meet with the coach. Parents and/or athlete should contact the coach via the telephone or email to set up a meeting time (never during a tournament).
  - A parent should never approach a coach at a tournament. We have instructed the coaches to refuse to discuss any controversial matter, and to refer the parent to the Directors. The coach will then walk away.
  - The recommended time for a parent to schedule a meeting is usually before or immediately following a scheduled practice.

If the matter remains unresolved or if the parent has a reasonable concern that speaking with the coach will not resolve the matter, then proceed to Step 3.

3. The parent may speak to the Facility Director(s) and request a meeting with the coach(es) and Facility Director(s) together.
  - In certain situations, OTVA may request the athlete to also attend.
  - Meetings must be previously arranged. This will not take place at a tournament site.
  - The Director(s) will not engage in discussions about coaching decisions.
4. In the event the matter is still unresolved, they should contact Tanya Starrett, the Club Director, at [tanyaj@orlandosportscenter.com](mailto:tanyaj@orlandosportscenter.com).

**PARENT COMMITTEES:**

In an effort to maintain order, a parent for each player is asked to take on a few simple tasks for his/her daughter’s team. Depending on the team level and the age group, not all of these positions are necessary, but we would like each team to have the following parents:

- ❖ FOOD PARENT – Asked to coordinate all meals.
- ❖ TRAVEL PARENT – Remind and gather any information necessary for travel for OTVA (i.e. a list or spreadsheet of all hotel information and flight details including coaches, players, and parents). The team parent will also be the only one to deal with our travel agent regarding team travel and lodging.

**FINANCIAL POLICIES**

**Invalid Credit Card & Returned Checks:** We ask that parents provide a credit card so that payments can be charged on the payment dates and ensure that payments are made on a timely basis.

In the event that a credit card needs to be charged and is later found to be invalid, an additional \$50.00 fee will be added to the bill and, if the payment is NOT made in full within 10 days, your daughter will be ineligible to practice or play until the payment is settled with the OTVA office. Notification will be delivered through email, therefore, it is the parent's responsibility to verify that a current email address is on record. Returned checks will be charged a \$50.00 reprocessing fee. Once again, if not paid in full within 10 days of the returned check email notice, your daughter will be ineligible until the full payment is settled with the OTVA office.

All payments should be sent to:  
 OTVA  
 6700 Kingspointe Parkway  
 Orlando, FL 32819

Questions can be directed to: (407) 226-0188 or emailed to [ambers@orlandosportscenter.com](mailto:ambers@orlandosportscenter.com)

**Refunds and Deposits:** Upon making any OTVA team, at a regular or supplemental tryout, there is a **non-refundable** \$500 deposit due to secure the spot. A refund of any amount **may be given for professionally documented medical reasons ONLY**. Refunds will be at the sole discretion of the club in the event that a player does not complete the season.

Any injury matters with the club must be submitted to the club in writing, including the date of incident or injury, doctor’s notes including type and length of disability, and the duration of club participation.

## **TRAVEL POLICIES**

As a part of USAV's commitment to participant safety, USAV requires its clubs to have published practices for team travel. Team Travel is defined as overnight travel to a team activity that is planned and supervised by OTVA.

As part of USAV's commitment to safety, it requires clubs to publish practices for travel. Clubs must include the following in their Travel Policy:

- Club travel policies will be made available to all parents and players as part of the Club Handbook and major policies will be reviewed with parents at the Club's Parent Meeting and with players by their individual coaches
- Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with a player (unless the coach is the parent, guardian, sibling or spouse of that particular player).
- When only one player and one coach travel to a competition, the player must have his or her parents' (or legal guardian's) written permission in advance to travel alone with the coach.

We encourage players 15-18 to room together to build camaraderie. Red teams 15-18 are required to room together at only the USAV Qualifiers and the USAV Nationals. Players may room with their parents at all other tournaments. All other 15-18 teams may room together if they so choose at all tournaments. All players 14 & under are required to room with their parents. Players will be required to obtain permission from their team coach before leaving a hotel or playing site.

All parents are required to stay at the designated team hotel for all "stay and play" events. When staying overnight, coaches will remove all phones from players at curfew that are rooming together and return them in the morning. Coaches, however, reserve the right to hold players phones during tournament play each day if they do choose.

PLEASE NOTE: Prior to an out of town tournament, the coach must receive in writing the date and time the player will be arriving and departing from the event in addition to the location of stay. OTVA assumes all players will be staying overnight at the OTVA assigned hotel for every event unless prior written approval is granted by the Director and the Team Coach.

### **LOCAL TRAVEL POLICY**

Travel will be a standard aspect of our competitive season and OTVA has established policies to guide our travel, minimize one-on-one interaction and reduce the risk of misconduct. Adherence to these travel guidelines will increase player safety and improve the competitive experience while keeping travel a fun and enjoyable experience.

### **LOCAL AND TEAM TRAVEL**

We distinguish between travel to training, practice and local competition ("local travel"), and team travel involving a coordinated overnight stay ("team travel").

#### **Local Travel**

Local travel occurs when OTVA does not sponsor, coordinate, or arrange for travel. For local travel, players or their parents/guardians are responsible for making all travel arrangements. In these instances it is the responsibility of the player or their parents/guardians to ensure the person transporting the player maintains all safety and legal requirements, including, but not limited to, a valid driver's license, proper insurance, well maintained vehicle, and compliance with all state laws.

Coaches, staff members and volunteers who are also a player's guardian may provide shared transportation for any player(s). We encourage guardians to pick up their player first and drop off their player last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement. We also recommend completing a shared travel declaration form signed by the parents/guardians of any minor player who is being transported as part of such a carpool arrangement.

#### **Team Travel**

Team travel is overnight travel that occurs when OTVA sponsors, coordinates or arranges for travel so that our teams can compete locally, regionally, nationally or internationally. Because of the greater distances, coaches, staff, volunteers and chaperones will often travel with the players.

For team travel, hotels and air travel will be generally booked by the participant's parents. Players (15-18) will share rooms for USAV qualifiers and the Nationals, with 2-4 players assigned per room depending on accommodations. OTVA will also notify hotel management should any special arrangements be warranted.

It is the club's policy to have players on teams that are classified as 15 and older room together for the USAV Qualifiers and National Championships. Players on teams 14 and under will room with their parents or designated representatives per their parents. It is also

the club's policy to remove all phones at curfew from players in order to ensure they receive a good night's sleep and return them at breakfast. It will also be at the coaches' discretion to keep them during playtime so as to minimize distractions.

#### **TRAVEL NOTIFICATION**

When possible, OTVA will provide reasonable advance notice before team travel. Notice will include the dates, location and duration of competition. Travel notice will also include designated team hotels for overnight stays as well as a contact person within OTVA.

#### **MIXED-GENDER AND MIXED-AGE TRAVEL**

OTVA is made up of male and female players across various ages. Players will only share a room with other players of the same sex and age group.

#### **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

As part of OTVA's emphasis on player safety, all electronic communications between a coach and player must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

As with any communication, the content of any electronic communication should be readily available to share with the player's family. At the request of a parent or guardian, any email, electronic text, social media or similar communication will copy or include the player's parents or guardians.

#### **FACEBOOK, MYSPACE, BLOGS AND SIMILAR SITES**

Player members and parents can friend the official OTVA page and coaches can communicate to player members through the site. All posts, messages, text, or media of any kind between coach and player must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities or for team-oriented motivational purposes.

#### **TWITTER, INSTANT MESSAGING AND SIMILAR MEDIA**

Coaches and players may "follow" each other. Coaches are discouraged from direct messaging on Twitter, Instagram, or any other social media site. All posts between coach and player must be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

#### **EMAIL AND SIMILAR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Players and coaches may use email to communicate. All email content between coach and player must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

#### **TEXTING AND SIMILAR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Texting is allowed between coaches and players. All texts between coach and player must be professional and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

#### **ELECTRONIC IMAGERY**

From time to time, digital photos, videos of practice or competition, and other publicly obtainable images of the player – individually or in groups – may be taken. These photos and/or videos may be submitted to local, state or national publications, used in club videos, posted on club or club associated websites, or offered to the club families seasonally on disc or other electronic form. It is the policy of OTVA to allow such practices as long as the player or players are in public view and such imagery is both appropriate and in the best interest of the player and the club.

#### **REQUEST TO DISCONTINUE ALL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS OR IMAGERY**

The parents or guardians of a player may request in writing that their child not be contacted by any form of electronic communication by coaches (photography or videography).

#### **MISCONDUCT**

Social media and electronic communications can also be used to commit misconduct (e.g., emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment, and hazing). Such communications by coaches, staff, volunteers, administrators, officials, parents or players will not be tolerated.

#### **VIOLATIONS**

Violations of OTVA's Electronic Communications and Social Media Policy should be reported to your facility director or OTVA administration.

## **MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES**

Covered Organizations/LAOs are required to implement the following athlete abuse prevention policies. To satisfy these requirements, USA Volleyball provides these policies to USAV member clubs. Clubs may choose to implement stricter standards.

### SafeSport Club Policies

1. One-on-One Interactions, including meetings and individual training sessions (Clubs are required to establish reasonable procedures to limit one-on one interactions, as set forth in federal law)
2. Massages and rubdowns/athletic training modalities Locker rooms and changing areas
3. Social media and electronic communications
4. Local travel
5. Team travel

These policies shall apply to the following:

1. Adult members at a facility that is either partially or fully under the jurisdiction of a FLORIDA REGION CLUB
2. Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors
3. Any adult authorized by FLORIDA REGION CLUB that may have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor
4. Adult staff and board members of a FLORIDA REGION CLUB

(Collectively “Applicable Adult” for the purposes of this policy)

## **POLICY 1 - ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS**

### **Observable and interruptible**

One-on-one interactions between a minor athlete and an Applicable Adult (who is not the minor’s legal guardian) at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of a FLORIDA REGION CLUB are permitted if they occur at an observable and interruptible distance by another adult.

One-on-one interactions between minor athletes and an Applicable Adult (who is not the minor’s legal guardian) at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of a Covered Organization/LAO are prohibited, except in the circumstances described in meetings with mental health care professionals and health care providers of this section and under emergency circumstances.

Meetings between Applicable Adults and minor athletes at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of a FLORIDA REGION CLUB may only occur if another adult is present, except under emergency circumstances. Such meetings must occur where interactions can be easily observed and at an interruptible distance from another adult.

If a one-on-one meeting takes place in an office at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of a FLORIDA REGION CLUB, the door to the office must remain unlocked and open. If available, it will occur in an office that has windows, with the windows, blinds, and/or curtains remaining open during the meeting.

### **Meetings with mental health care professionals and health care providers**

If a mental health care professional and/or health care provider meets with minor athletes at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of FLORIDA REGION CLUB, a closed-door meeting may be permitted to protect patient privacy provided that:

The door remains unlocked and another adult is present at the facility.

The other adult is advised that a closed-door meeting is occurring written legal guardian consent is obtained in advance by the mental health care professional and/or health care provider, with a copy provided to the organization.

### **Individual training sessions**

Individual training sessions between Applicable Adults and minor athletes are permitted at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of FLORIDA REGION CLUB if the training session is observable and interruptible by another adult. It is the responsibility of the Applicable Adult to obtain the written permission of the minor’s legal guardian in advance of the individual training session if the individual training session is not observable and interruptible by another adult. Permission for individual training sessions must be obtained at least every six months. Parents, guardians, and other caretakers must be allowed to observe the training session.



## **POLICY 2 - MESSAGES AND RUBDOWNS/ATHLETIC TRAINING MODALITIES**

Any massage or rubdown/athletic training modality performed at a facility or a training or competition venue under the jurisdiction of FLORIDA REGION CLUB must be conducted in an open and interruptible location. Any massage of a minor athlete must be done with at least one other adult present and must never be done with only the minor athlete and the person performing the massage or rubdown/athletic training modality in the room.

### **LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS**

#### **Non-exclusive facility**

If FLORIDA REGION CLUB uses a facility not fully under their jurisdiction (for, e.g., training or competition or similar events) and the facility is used by multiple constituents, Applicable Adults in categories 1 through 4 are nonetheless required to adhere to the rules set forth herein..

#### **Use of recording devices**

Use of any device's (including a cell phone's) recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras in locker rooms, changing areas, or similar spaces at a facility under the jurisdiction of FLORIDA REGION CLUB is prohibited. Exceptions may be made for media and championship celebrations, provided that such exceptions are approved by the FLORIDA REGION CLUB and two or more Applicable Adults are present.

#### **Undress**

Under no circumstances shall an unrelated Applicable Adult at a facility under the jurisdiction of FLORIDA REGION CLUB intentionally expose his or her breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a minor athlete.

#### **One-on-one interactions**

Except for athletes on the same team, at no time are unrelated Applicable Adults permitted to be alone with a minor athlete in a locker room or changing area when at a facility under the partial or full jurisdiction of FLORIDA REGION CLUB, except under emergency circumstances.

If FLORIDA REGION CLUB is using a facility that only has a single locker room or changing area, separate times will be designated for use by Applicable Adults, if any.

#### **Monitoring**

FLORIDA REGION CLUB will regularly and randomly monitor the use of locker rooms and changing areas at facilities under their jurisdiction to ensure compliance with these policies.

## **POLICY 3 - SOCIAL MEDIA & ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

As part of FLORIDA REGION CLUB emphasis on athlete safety, all electronic communications between a coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

#### **Content**

All electronic communication originating from Applicable Adults to minor athletes must be professional in nature.

#### **Open and transparent**

Absent emergency circumstances, if an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes needs to communicate directly with a minor athlete via electronic communications (including social media), another Applicable Adult or the minor athlete's legal guardian will be copied.

If a minor athlete communicates to an Applicable Adult (with authority over the minor athlete) privately first, said Applicable Adult should respond to the minor athlete with a copy to another Applicable Adult or the minor athlete's legal guardian.

When an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes communicates electronically to the entire team, said Applicable Adult will copy another adult.

Minor athletes may "friend" the organization's official page.

#### **Facebook, Myspace, blogs, and similar sites**

Coaches may not have athletes of FLORIDA REGION CLUB's Team join a personal social media page. Athlete members and parents can friend the official FLORIDA REGION CLUB's Team page and coaches can communicate to athlete members through the site. All

posts, messages, text, or media of any kind between coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities or for team-oriented motivational purposes.

#### **Twitter, instant messaging and similar media**

Coaches and athletes may “follow” each other. All posts between coach and athlete must be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

#### **Email and similar/electronic communications**

Athletes and coaches may use email to communicate. All email content between coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. Where the coach is a staff member and/or volunteer, email from a coach to any athlete we recommend come from the club website email center (the coach’s return email address will contain “@CLUB.com”).

#### **Texting and similar electronic communications**

Texting is allowed between coaches and athletes. All texts between coach and athlete must be professional and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

#### **Electronic imagery**

From time to time, digital photos, videos of practice or competition, and other publicly obtainable images of the athlete – individually or in groups – may be taken. These photos and/or videos may be submitted to local, state or national publications, used in club videos, posted on club or club associated websites, or offered to the club families seasonally on disc or other electronic form. It is the default policy of FLORIDA REGION CLUB to allow such practices as long as the athlete or athletes are in public view and such imagery is both appropriate and in the best interest of the athlete and the club. Imagery must not be contrary to any rules as outlined in FLORIDA REGION CLUB’s Participant Safety Handbook.

#### **Request to discontinue all electronic communication or imagery**

The parents or guardians of an athlete may request in writing that their child not be contacted by any form of electronic communication by coaches or Applicable Adults subject to this policy. (Photography or videography). The FLORIDA REGION CLUB will abide by any such request that their minor athlete not be contacted via electronic communication, absent emergency circumstances.

#### **Misconduct**

Social media and electronic communications can also be used to commit misconduct (e.g., emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment, and hazing). Such communications by coaches, staff, volunteers, administrators, officials, parents or athletes will not be tolerated and are considered violations of our Participant Safety Handbook.

#### **Violations**

Violations of FLORIDA REGION CLUB’s Electronic Communications and Social Media Policy should be reported to your immediate supervisor, a FLORIDA REGION CLUB administrator or a member of FLORIDA REGION CLUB’s Participant Safety Committee for evaluation. Complaints and allegations will be addressed under FLORIDA REGION CLUB’s Disciplinary Rules and Procedure.

#### **LOCAL TRAVEL & TEAM TRAVEL**

This policy shall apply to:

1. Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors
2. Any adult authorized by FLORIDA REGION CLUB to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor
3. Adult staff and board members of FLORIDA REGION CLUB

(Collectively “Applicable Adult” for the purposes of this policy)

#### **POLICY 4 - LOCAL TRAVEL**

Local travel consists of travel to training, practice, and competition that occurs locally and does not include coordinated overnight stay(s).

#### **Transportation**

Applicable Adults who are not also acting as a legal guardian, shall not ride in a vehicle alone with an unrelated minor athlete, absent emergency circumstances, and must have at least two minor athletes or another adult at all times, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the minor athlete’s parent/legal guardian in advance of each local travel.

## **POLICY 5 - TEAM TRAVEL**

Team travel is travel to a competition or other team activity that the organization plans and supervises.

### **Team/competition travel**

When only one Applicable Adult and one minor athlete travel to a competition, the minor athlete must have his/her legal guardian's written permission in advance and for each competition to travel alone with said Applicable Adult.

### **Hotel Room**

Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangements with a minor player. (Unless coach is the parent, guardian or sibling of the player) However, a parent/legal guardian may consent to such an arrangement in advance and in writing. Furthermore, a parent/legal guardian may consent in advance and in writing to the minor athlete sharing a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with an adult athlete

Coach or his/her designee will establish a curfew by when all players must be in their hotel rooms in a supervised location. Regular monitoring and curfew checks will be made to each room by at least two properly background screened adults. At no time should one adult be present in room with minor players, regardless of gender.

Team personnel should ask hotel to block adult pay per view channels.

### **Meetings**

Meetings shall be conducted consistent with the FLORIDA REGION CLUB policy for one-on-one interactions

Individual meetings between coach and player may not occur in hotel sleeping rooms and must be held in public setting or with additional adults present with one of those adults being the same gender as the player.

For any further questions about any issues or policies contained in the Handbook, please contact Tanya at 407-226-0188 or email her at [tanyaj@orlandosportscenter.com](mailto:tanyaj@orlandosportscenter.com).