



# Club Volleyball

## Player and Parent Handbook

(REVISED 7/11/2022) Director – Josh Brenneman

### Mission Statement

Yorktowne Volleyball Club is a nationally prominent, competitive program dedicated to advancing the personal and athletic development of youth through the pursuit of excellence in volleyball, fostering a sense of community throughout the Club while promoting leadership in all Club members.

The coaches, athletes, parents and other members of Yorktowne Volleyball Club want to share the mission of creating and supporting a program that has a profound, positive effect on the young athletes within the context of competitive volleyball. We help young athletes develop “life” skills by teaching them to set challenging yet achievable goals. We assist young athletes to achieve these goals by instilling in them a personal commitment to support each other and work as a team; we pledge to do whatever it takes to create and support such a program.



## Team Composition

Teams will be composed of the players that best fulfill the positions for the systems we use at each age group. The team will consist of eight or more players. Some players may be asked to play above their age level if the staff feels it is in the best interest of the player and the team. Requests to move up will be noted, but the player must be able to benefit themselves and the team.

Occasionally an athlete will be moved from one team to another. Movement is at the sole discretion of the Club. Athletes who move from or to a travel team will have their dues prorated by subtracting or adding amounts as needed. No athlete will be moved from or to another team until the move is discussed with the parents, coaches and players.

## Tryouts/Open Gyms

We anticipate evaluating a large number of athletes during tryouts and open gyms. Some athletes have extensive playing experience while others do not. During these sessions, players are evaluated on skill execution, as well as intrinsic traits such as motivation, leadership and desire. We base our selections on what the athletes do during these sessions and what we perceive their potential contributions to the team will be. We select athletes based on the following criteria: athletic potential, attitude, work ethic, character, reliability, drive, willingness to be coached, leadership and volleyball knowledge and skills. It is suggested that athletes attend as many sessions as possible to get a thorough evaluation.

Every athlete in the Club is evaluated each year. Each athlete must come to the tryout ready to compete for a place on one of our teams. (An athlete with a limiting physical or medical condition should talk to the Director "Josh Brennehan" prior to the start of the tryout period.) Players should never assume because they were on a Travel/National team one year they will automatically make the Travel/National team the following year. Athletes are selected for the Open/National team because they show potential, in the staff's opinion, to help those teams compete successfully at the national level. Please note that each year we have a very strong turnout at the 17s and 18s age groups, and can field multiple teams at each age group to compete at the national level.

Tryouts are used to finalize and evaluate the players based on everything we saw from your athlete. It is important that you arrive at the Tryouts ready to play. Have your paperwork filled out and ready at registration: USA Volleyball online registration and payment to KRVA, USA Volleyball Medical Release, tryout registration and payment (YT Volleyball LLC) at least 30 minutes prior to your scheduled start time.

## Membership & Dues

Membership dues will not change during the season. Travel teams may have expenses for travel, lodging and optional trips over and above membership dues. Yorktowne Volleyball has devised a payment plan to meet the operational needs of the Club while making the payment of dues easier for the majority of our members. It is your responsibility to know what you owe as a parent or player. If you have any questions as to what you owe you can contact the Director Josh Brenneman for the amount. Payments are due the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month and should be mailed to the Club address. In an effort to keep costs low, a statement of account will not be mailed out (or printed) each month. You can request a statement any time by contacting the Josh Brenneman at Yorktownevb717@gmail.com.

Yorktowne dues cover items listed in the budgets handed out. Families are responsible for travel, lodging and food expenses. The dues at Yorktowne make up the total cost of running the program. Since this is not a profit venture, your payment is critical. We operate on a strict money in and money out with a debit account **"No Credit Card"**. For this reason, we treat the dues as a contract in which you agree to pay the specified dues for your child and in return the Club agrees to provide the following items but not limited to: coaching staff, practice time, regional/non regional events, training, college recruiting, and many other benefits by joining Yorktowne. Specific budgets will be made once teams and events are selected. **Late payments could result in suspension from practices and events.**

Since this is a contract, it protects both parties in that if the cost of running the Club exceeds the budget, you will still receive the full team package and you won't have to pay extra to make up the shortcoming. At the same time if income exceeds expenses, you will not be reimbursed; the money will be invested in the Club to make it better. As you will see later in the budget, the costs are estimated for everything we provide. Dues are very competitive with other USA Travel Programs in the country, and for the most part much cheaper than other Nationally known Clubs. Upon team selection, a parent meeting or email discussion for each team will be held where all contracts and registration forms will be completed along with tournaments selected and final cost for the teams' season.

We are committed to the goal that no deserving athlete shall be deprived of the benefits of the Club for lack of funds. To that end, we will work with you to structure payment plans and fund-raising opportunities to enable you to be a part of Yorktowne. Many athletes of limited means are and have been a part of Yorktowne by using fund-raising to offset almost all of their fees. It is your responsibility to contact us if you are having problems and we will be discreet when working with you. Please do not wait until the situation gets out of hand before contacting the Josh Brenneman.

Any dues that are not paid in full by May of the current season will be turned over to a collection agency. The player (and/or parents) will then be responsible for all extra fees and interest that occurs due to the delinquency. The player will also be reported to any agencies and organizations permitted by law. This may affect the player's ability to play for other clubs in the future.

**Any player who leaves the club, for any reason, will still be responsible for the full amount of their dues. Players asking for a release will not have their request considered until dues are paid in full.** Should a player miss part of the season due to an injury, a pro-rated amount of half the fees will still be required to be paid. If the player would return mid-season or nationals they would be required to pay the full club dues for the season.

## Club Payment Schedule

For your convenience, the following schedule will be used to make payments on current Club dues:

- Deposit Payment of \$650 (Due on team acceptance).
- Remaining balance will be divided into three payments:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Payment (Friday October 14<sup>th</sup> 2022).
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Payment (Friday Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 2022).
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Payment (Friday December 16<sup>th</sup> 2022).
- All dues must be paid in full by Dec 30<sup>th</sup>, or arrangements made with the Club Director - Josh Brenneman.

## Club Dues Refund

All refunds for the current season will be processed and mailed the week of June 1<sup>st</sup>, each year. In the event of the season (full or partial) cancellation, refunds will be provided at a pro-rated amount minus any realized costs (played events, uniforms, coaches pay to the time of cancellation). A detail account of the refund will be provided.

All refunds for nationals will be processed and mailed the week of August 1<sup>st</sup>, each year. In the event of the season (full or partial) cancellation, refunds will be provided at a pro-rated amount minus any realized costs (played events, uniforms, coaches pay to the time of cancellation). A detail account of the refund will be provided.



## Fundraising

The Yorktowne Volleyball Club is one of the premier volleyball clubs in the region and is recognized as one of the truly outstanding programs in the nation. We at Yorktowne are committed to helping young athletes excel. A program of this magnitude and quality is expensive, in terms of commitment of both time and money. The parent-run fund-raising will focus on providing an outstanding program and giving families various opportunities to earn assistance with the costs incurred.

The Director will provide multiple fundraising opportunities throughout the season to help offset the club dues. These fundraisers are optional because the funds you raise will go into your account. You will receive the total amount (minus admin fees specific to that activity). Please note fundraising credits are attached to your last payment of the season and we will work backwards. Also please note that you may not fundraise more than your club dues because of Uncle Sam and taxes.

At the end of a season the parents may request that any remaining credits be paid back (see refund schedule above), carried over for the next season or transferred to another player. All requests must be done in writing or via e-mail.

## Outside Activities

The staff at Yorktowne Volleyball Club understands the fact that our athletes may participate in other activities. However, for the good of the team, it is extremely important that our players attend as many practices as possible. It damages the cohesion of your team if you only attend sporadically.

We appreciate you following these guidelines when deciding to play club volleyball and high school activities at the same time:

Whenever there is a high school game or match it should take precedence over the Club practice or tournament. A high school practice should take precedence over Club practice; however, a Club tournament should take precedence over a high school practice. You should make every effort to attend volleyball practice even if it is after a high school practice. Many times, your team may not be able to function without you since there may be only eight players.

High school coaches may have a problem with Club practices or tournament schedules that conflict with high school practices. It is recommended you discuss this issue with your high school coach before signing up for club volleyball. Some coaches understand this issue since only Saturdays may conflict, others may tell you that you will not play in the next game if this happens and still others will not let you play at all if you're playing club volleyball. Either way it is important that you discuss this with your high school coach and make your decisions with open eyes.

Please remember that we are talking about high school activities and at no time will personal activities like skiing, bowling or skateboarding be an acceptable excuse for not attending a practice or tournament.

With that said it is your athletes responsibility to keep his volleyball development and progression up to par in this competitive program. Meaning their own play time could be hindered if they cannot compete at their expected level or other athletes pass them in development who are attending their practice sessions.

## Tournaments

If you have any questions as you look over the tournament schedule, please check with the Head Coach or Director.

All athletes are expected to be in the gym, READY TO WARM-UP, at the scheduled arrival time. This usually means the athlete needs to arrive at the site 20-30 minutes prior to the scheduled arrival time to stow gear.

Many gyms prohibit food or drink other than water inside. Teams may be penalized by a tournament director if parents and/or supporters ignore this rule.

Proper demeanor is expected of all members of the Club including players and spectators at all tournaments; this includes treating members of the officiating crew with respect.

Athletes and/or parents are responsible for providing transportation for their athlete to and from the tournament sites.

All athletes are expected to attend every tournament. If an athlete can not make an event, it is up to the player to inform the coach as soon as they are aware, they will be missing the event. It is suggested that the player informs the coach in a written manner (e-mail will work). It is the athlete's (not the parent's) responsibility to reach the coach.

Except for the starting times, most USAV tournaments do not follow a set time schedule. Matches will begin ten minutes after the end of the previous match. Because of this format, it is very difficult to determine exactly when a tournament will end. Expect to play all day.

Athletes will not be allowed to leave a tournament site until excused by the coach after all work responsibilities for the entire team are complete. This means that even if you are not working the last match of the day, you must remain until the rest of the team is done working.

If you have any questions as to whether or not, you have a tournament or departure times and location it is your responsibility to contact your coach or the Director.

## Travel

Travel to tournaments is the responsibility of the athlete and parent. At no time may a player ride with a coach. Parents providing rides for other players are encouraged to sign the USAV volunteer form. Liability is provided by your auto insurance. Athletes at least 17 years of age may be permitted to drive to tournaments if a form is signed by the parents beforehand. All travel must follow the guidelines set forth by the region. Please visit our website for the official KRVA Travel Policies.

Volleyball comes first on trips. Everything else is secondary. Travel dress code shall be designated by the Director and/or coaches. Athletes will be courteous and respectful to all staff members. This includes coaches, chaperons, trainers and other adults officially traveling with the team. Athletes may not leave the hotel area at any time without permission from their coach and accompanied by an adult. There is also a 10:30 p.m. curfew for all athletes, regardless if they are staying with parents or not.

Any athlete who disobeys any one of the travel rules may be sent home immediately at the expense of the parent or guardian.

## National Trips & Junior National Championships

At some point in the season, teams may be given the opportunity to travel to a national tournament, which may include the USA Jr. National Championships (mandatory if the team wins an open bid) or AAU Nationals. The cost will range from approximately \$400 to \$550 which is not included in your dues. Non-national teams will discuss and vote on the trip. National team players are expected to travel with the team to Junior National Championships.

The entry fee for all National teams is not included in your season dues. Players from other teams (and clubs) may be added to the roster to help fill out the team for national trips if the unlikely event that someone cannot attend. All National teams are expected to travel to Junior National Championships regardless of their open bid status. If Yorktowne is sending a team in your child's age bracket, they will be expected to play with Yorktowne. The Club will not release players to play with another club unless we are not fielding a team. Players on teams that win an open bid will be locked to the Yorktowne roster (per USAV rules).

National championship teams are considered a "new" team once the main season is over. Players not traveling to national championships that were part of the same team during the regular season are not promised practice time or a roster spot for any pre-national scrimmages or events. Yorktowne may also bring in additional players to help fill the team.

## Physical Training and Conditioning

As we are about to begin an exciting and successful Yorktowne season, please remember that an athlete's best performances will occur when they are on top of their game both physically and mentally. Any athlete participating in a sport should be in top physical shape and this will require physical training outside of volleyball. Two days of practice per week is not enough time to keep your body ready for competition and players should have a regular workout outside of practice. This workout may come from personal training or another athletic sport.

In order to maintain the body and mind at a peak performance level, an athlete must learn to handle various stresses and deal with the recovery process following workouts. These stresses can be any one of a combination of the following: poor nutrition, illness, fatigue (i.e. lack of sleep), insufficient rest between workout sessions, emotional stress from schoolwork, friends or family situations or other extracurricular activities.

## Insurance

USA Volleyball provides secondary insurance for all registered players and coaches during matches and practices. The policy is effective only after your own health insurance, and the policy has a \$500 deductible. An incident report must be filed with the Athletic Director within 48 hours.

## New for the 2022 Season

**Director** – Josh Brenneman – 717-654-6061 – [Yorktownevb717@gmail.com](mailto:Yorktownevb717@gmail.com)

**Mailing Address:** Yorktowne Volleyball – 459A Buttonwood Lane York PA 17406

**Practice Facility 1:** York Learning Center – 300 East 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue York PA 17404





## Playing Time and Practice

Yorktowne 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 coach. In keeping with our Mission Statement and Purpose:

- We do guarantee quality practice time.
  - We do not guarantee equal playing time at tournament events.
- All athletes are expected to attend every practice.
  - Only an illness serious enough to keep the athlete home from school or a genuine family emergency are legitimate excuses for missing practice. Regardless of the reason, if an athlete misses an excessive number of practices, his playing time may decrease.
- If an athlete is not going to be at practice, it is the athlete's responsibility to contact the coach to let them know. It is the athlete's responsibility (not the parents) to reach the coach before the practice starts.
- We expect Yorktowne practices and tournaments to take priority over all other outside activities including sports, band, drama, school trips, etc. Exceptions are for current "in season" school sports. All other exceptions must be approved by the Director.
- Horseplay or ball handling in the lobby of practice areas is strictly prohibited.
- Athletes are encouraged to bring water, in an unbreakable container, to practice and tournaments.
- Athletes must report any illness or injury to the coach and immediately.
- In case of inclement weather, check the Club Website first for changes, or the coach will call/text/email you of practice changes.

## Player Conduct

While representing the Yorktowne Volleyball Club, all athletes are expected to behave in a responsible and mature manner. Athletes are expected to play by the rules set by USAV for volleyball. Athletes are expected to use positive verbal and physical behavior. Athletes are expected to demonstrate teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play.

Any athlete damaging equipment owned by Yorktowne Volleyball Club or the facility used by the Club during practices, tournaments or other functions, or at lodging facilities, or in transportation vehicles, will be required to reimburse the Club and/or facility for the damages before continuing in the Club. In some circumstances, the athlete may be dismissed from the Club.

Substance abuse will not be tolerated by Yorktowne Volleyball. Any player found in possession or under the influence will be immediately suspended pending investigation and will forfeit all dues, plus any unpaid dues will be paid up so that other team players will not suffer due to one player's actions.

Any player involved in illegal actions will be immediately suspended pending investigation and will forfeit all dues, plus any unpaid dues will be paid up so that other team players will not suffer due to one player's actions.

As per USAV regulations, players are prohibited from having personal, intimate relationships with any member of the coaching and administrative staff.

## Parent Conduct

In an effort to be positive role models, Yorktowne will not tolerate hostile, aggressive confrontations between a parent and any official, or a parent and any coach, or a parent and any athlete or a parent and any other parent, whether the coach, athlete or other parent is a member of Yorktowne or not. Violation of this policy may result in the parent being removed or the athlete being dismissed from Yorktowne.

It is inappropriate for a parent to approach other Yorktowne members about a problem an athlete or parent is having with a Yorktowne coach, about objections to coaching decisions or about disagreement 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.

Any member who is approached and asked to listen to or express an opinion about matters between two other parties in the Club is strongly encouraged to refer the complaining party to take the matter up with either the coach in question, the Head Coach and/or the Director.

If you, as a parent, are unhappy or concerned about these matters, you should address the party in control; if the athlete is the unhappy person, she needs to address the appropriate party.

Repetitive complaining to the athlete(s) or other third parties that interferes with the Club's efforts to pursue its stated mission and purpose may be cause, in the sole determination of the Club, to ask a member to resign.

## Anti-Harassment Policy

Yorktowne is fully committed to preventing harassment in any form in its program. In addition, Yorktowne vigilantly maintains a policy that places the safety of the young athletes entrusted to our care and instruction as our highest priority.

To this end, it is against Club policy and USAV policy to:

- i. Demand sexual behavior in exchange for favors.
- ii. Exhibit unwelcome touching of any kind.
- iii. Communicate with unwanted letters, telephone calls, text messages or e-mail of a personal nature.
- iv. Unwarranted inquires about personal life or sexual habits.
- v. Repeated jokes or innuendoes with sexual content.
- vi. Sexual comments about a person's appearance or body.

We do not tolerate verbal behavior that ridicules or belittles any of the athletes by coaches, players, parents or spectators. We will not tolerate physical abuse of any type toward players. Players, coaches or parents guilty of hazing may be subject to suspension from the Club or civil and/or criminal procedures.



## Anti-Hazing Policy

Hazing is defined as any intentional act that endangers the mental or physical health of one person or a group of people, by another person or group of people, for the purpose of group acceptance or membership.

Yorktowne will not tolerate hazing of any type including:

- i. Physical brutality such as beating, striking or excess calisthenics.
- ii. Excessive consumption of food or drink.
- iii. Intimidating or threatening activities that cause extreme mental stress.

Players, coaches or parents guilty of hazing may be subject to suspension from the Club or civil and/or criminal procedures

## Drug & Alcohol Policy

Yorktowne Volleyball Club has a zero-tolerance policy regarding drug and alcohol use. Any player who is caught using drugs or alcohol during the seasons of Yorktowne Volleyball will be subject to disciplinary action. Seasons are defined as starting at the very first organized practice and concluding the day following the regional championship. The policy is also in effect at the beginning of practices for any national championship trips and concludes the day after the team returns from the national championship trip.

Even when not in uniform or at a Yorktowne event, the players represent the Club. It is important that their actions represent the Club in the best possible manner. Even if a violation of the above policy occurs outside supervision of Yorktowne (and during season), the player may face disciplinary action.

If serious violations occur outside of the supervision of Yorktowne and outside the Yorktowne seasons, the player may be denied membership to the Club for upcoming seasons.

## Reporting Behavior

If you see behavior by a Yorktowne member you believe appears to be inappropriate, or if you experience behavior from a coach or administrator that you believe to be inappropriate, report it immediately to either the Head Coach or the Director.

All complaints will be investigated. Any employee found to be in violation of the code of conduct will be subject to discipline which may include dismissal. There will be no retaliation against any complainants and/or witnesses who participate in an investigation of a harassment charge. If you have questions about Yorktownes policies or procedures, please do not hesitate to contact the Director.

## Social Media Policies

Yorktowne Volleyball Club (YT Volleyball, LLC) follows the policies set for by the KRVA Social Media and Communication Polices document. Please visit our website or the KRVA website for an updated policy. Agreement to this document assumes agreement with all region and USAV policies.

## New for the 2022 Season

Please use the following contact list to assist you with any questions, comments or concerns. You can also visit the Club's Web site at [www.YorktowneVB.com](http://www.YorktowneVB.com) for more information

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