



## **Travel policy for Revolution Volleyball Academy**

Revolution Volleyball Academy has some teams that travel regularly to play in tournaments, has some teams where travel is limited to a few events per season, and some teams where there is no travel other than local travel to and from our own area. Revolution Volleyball Academy prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, bullying, threats, harassment, and hazing, all as described in the USA Volleyball SafeSport Handbook. Revolution Volleyball Academy has established policies to guide our travel, minimize one-on-one interactions and reduce risk of abuse or misconduct. Adherence to these travel guidelines will increase player safety and improve the player's experience while keeping local and long distance travel a fun and enjoyable experience.

We distinguish travel to training, practice, and local and long distance tournaments from an RVA event. We define an "RVA event" to be any scheduled practice from start time to end time, any scheduled match beginning at warmups and ending upon the match's completion, and any special event organized by RVA between the times stated for the event. RVA is not responsible for any situation that occurs outside of an RVA event. RVA does not assume any liability for any negligence or neglect from any 3<sup>rd</sup> party involved in an RVA event.

### **Travel Policy**

Travel occurs when Revolution Volleyball Academy schedules an event. Some events may be local where others may be long distance requiring a flight to and from the event and one or more hotel nights.

- Players and/or their parents/guardians are responsible for making all arrangements and supervision for travel. The team and its coaches, managers or administrators should avoid responsibility for arranging or coordinating travel. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to ensure the person transporting the minor player maintains the proper safety and legal requirements, including but not limited to: a valid driver's license, automobile liability insurance, a vehicle in safe working order, and compliance with applicable state laws.
- The employees, coaches and/or volunteers of Revolution Volleyball Academy or one of its teams, who are not also acting as a parent, should not drive with an unrelated minor player.
- Parents/Guardians are responsible for providing supervision of the athlete before and after an RVA event and between matches at a tournament.
- Revolution Volleyball Academy's staff will not be involved in the supervision of the athletes outside of the time restrictions of an RVA event.
- When possible, Revolution Volleyball Academy will provide reasonable advance notice before team travel.
- Local travel refers to any event that does not require a hotel or flight, long distance travel refers to any event that will or may require a hotel or air flight.
- RVA may enter an event that requires a "stay and play" policy. If we are designated by the event as out of the area (defined by tournament host) the team and its families will be required to book our rooms through their (Tournament Hosts) reservation site. Some events do not have this policy and the team and its families are free to book a room of their choice.
- Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangements with a minor player (unless the coach is the parent, guardian or sibling of the player).
- Individual meetings between a coach and a player may not occur in hotel sleeping rooms and must be held in public settings or with additional adults present, with at least one of those adults being the same gender as the player.
- No coach or chaperone shall at any time be under the influence of drugs or alcohol while performing their coaching and/or chaperoning duties.

- Prior to any travel, coaches will endeavor to make players and parents aware of all expectations and rules.

### **Suggested Additional Guidelines**

The following policies are additional guidelines for developing a travel policy based on the club's preferences and needs.

- Players are expected to remain with their family at all times during the trip. Players are not to leave the competition venue without the permission/knowledge of the coach or chaperone.
- Behavior Policies
  - Be quiet and respect the rights of teammates and others in the hotel and tournament venue;
  - Be prompt and on time;
  - Develop cell phone usage guidelines;
  - Develop computer usage guidelines including social media;
  - Respect travel vehicles;
  - Establish travel dress code;
  - Use appropriate behavior in public facilities, including language;
  - Establish two different curfews – in own rooms and lights out;
  - Needs and well-being of the team come first.
- General
  - Request hotel to block any adult content in rooms
  - Please avoid any adult usage of alcohol or illicit drugs in the presence of the athletes.
  - Provide healthy and nutritious meals for the athletes

### **Code of Conduct / Honor Code**

USA Volleyball strongly suggests clubs create a Code of Conduct or Honor Code as a companion document to team travel policies. A "team member" is considered an athlete, coach, chaperone, manager, parent/guardian, sibling, or any companion of a rostered athlete associated with an RVA team.

#### *Required:*

- a. Team members will display proper respect and sportsmanship toward coaches, officials, administrators, other team members, fellow competitors and the public at all times.
- b. Team members will refrain from any illegal or inappropriate behavior that would detract from a positive image of the team or be detrimental to its performance objectives.
- c. The possession or use of alcohol or tobacco products by any athlete is prohibited.
- d. The possession, use or sale/distribution of any controlled or illegal substance or any form or weapon is strictly forbidden.
- e. Team members are reminded that when competing in tournaments, traveling on trips and attending other club-related functions, they are representing both themselves and Revolution Volleyball Academy. Athlete behavior must positively reflect the high standards of the club.

#### For Consideration:

- a. Failure to comply with the Honor Code as set forth in this document may result in disciplinary action. Such discipline may include, but may not be limited to:
  - i. Dismissal from the event and immediate return home at the athlete's and family's expense
  - ii. Disqualification from future tournaments, either local or traveling;

- iii. Financial penalties;
  - iv. Dismissal from team; and/or
  - v. Penalties set forth in the USA Volleyball Participant Code of Conduct, which may include a lifetime ban.
- b. Team members are to refrain from inappropriate physical contact at team activities. We define a team member as an athlete, parent/guardian, sibling, RVA staff, or traveling companion.
- c. Team members are to refrain from the use of inappropriate language.
- d. If the offender is a parent, guardian, sibling, or companion of a team member the offender and athlete will be asked to leave the event at the athlete's expense. The club will then evaluate the situation and make a determination regarding the athlete's future participation with the club.
- e. If a parent/guardian, sibling, or companion of an athlete is removed from the team it is the requirement of the family to continue to provide suitable travel for the athlete in accordance of the club's guidelines and requirements.

### **Chain of Command**

If an incident occurs at an RVA event we ask that it get reported to us immediately. Depending on the situation we have a chain of command to assist with reporting of the incident.

- If this situation involves playing time or coaching decisions, please wait 48 hrs after the completion of the event to discuss with the coach. We ask that the first contact in this situation be approached by the player to the coach. If the player/coach discussion is unresolved, we ask that the parent reach out to the coach. If either of those two attempts are unresolved, please approach a club director.
- If the situation involves the behavior or actions of a RVA coach or staff member please contact a club director immediately.
- If the situation involves the behavior or actions of a team member that is not an RVA coach please notify the RVA coach and Club Director immediately.
- If the situation occurs outside of a RVA event please contact the appropriate authorities first and then contact the RVA coach and Club Director