



Northumberland Breakers Volleyball Club Athlete and Parent Expectations

The Breakers Volleyball Club is very proud that you have chosen to participate in our club this season. We believe that participation in a respected and competitive volleyball program can provide athletes with high-level volleyball training, as well as provide an opportunity to learn some “life skills” – responsibility, dedication, leadership, teamwork, hard work, and respect for others. These Athlete and Parent Expectations and the Code of Conduct have been established to promote these skills and qualities and to help continue a strong volleyball program.

Athlete Conduct and Sportsmanship

Athletes are expected to act in a sportsman-like manner and set a proper example during all club activities, including practices, travel, tournaments and any activity on or off the court in which the club chooses to participate.

During matches the athletes must treat opponents and officials with respect. Be generous in winning and graceful in losing. Athletes are expected to play fairly within the rules and spirit of the game of volleyball at all times.

The Breakers Club intends to develop a positive team experience for every athlete. The club expects all athletes to be supportive and respectful of their teammates. No activity, gesture or words deemed disrespectful or abusive to any athlete, coach, the team or the Breakers Program as a whole shall be tolerated. Any behavior that is determined to be unbecoming of an athlete is reason for disciplinary action. A team’s success depends upon each athlete’s positive attitude as well as their skills.

Parent Conduct and Sportsmanship

Parents are crucial to the success of their child’s volleyball experience and the success of The Northumberland Breakers Volleyball Club. Parents need to be a positive role model for their child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all athletes, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice and tournament.

Please refrain from coaching your child or other athletes during games and practices unless you are an official coach. It can be very confusing for a child to hear someone other than the coach yelling out instructions during a match. Getting to decide tactics, line ups etc. is one of the privileges your child’s coach has earned by making the commitment to coach.

The Breakers Club encourages and appreciates parent’s attendance at all tournaments. Please show good sportsmanship by: keeping all comments positive, applauding good play by both our teams and our opponents, avoid comparing the skill or ability of your child with other athletes and avoid criticizing your child teammates on or off the floor.

Parent Participation in Northumberland Breakers Volleyball Club

The Club asks that each Parent is involved in a fundraising tournament hosted by their child's team. There are many other opportunities to participate in the Club this year. Each team will have a Team Manager who will help coordinate various issues between the coach/club/team. Additionally, teams may choose to have a video/photographer, and even a team reporter to keep track of scores and results for newspaper submissions or our website. These are great opportunities to become more involved in your child's success and will make for a really fun season.

Practice:

Athletes are expected to make every effort to attend all practices. Athletes must arrive 15 minutes prior to the posted start time for every practice in order to be changed, warmed up to ensure that practice starts on time. Tardiness shows disrespect to your coach and team. It is understood that other commitments arise from time to time such as health, family and school situations that make it difficult to attend practices. In the event a player cannot attend practice, courtesy and Club policy require the player to notify the coach directly 24 hours in advance if possible. Do not have a team mate notify the coach, it is not their responsibility. Excessive tardiness or absences may result in discipline, suspension or expulsion from the Club.

While at practice an athlete will:

- Show their coaches and teammates respect.
- Give 100% of their attention and effort to all drills and scrimmages.
- Accept responsibility for their actions.
- Notify coaches immediately of any injuries or illnesses.
- Be encouraging and not distract others from their focus.
- Not wear jewelry (leave jewelry at home).
- Wear Breakers Volleyball Club attire.
- Set up and put away the nets, balls and cart. Please clean up the gym(water bottles, garbage and clothing)
- Turn off cell phones before practice

Playing Time

A successful team is made up of individual members – each with a specific role to play. Coaches are very cognizant of playing time and want each athlete to have the opportunity to play successfully. While it is a Breakers Club goal for each athlete to have some on-court role every tournament the club cannot guarantee equal playing time as we are a competitive Volleyball Club. The nature of the sport of volleyball dictates that not all players get equal playing time. Playing time is at the discretion of the coach. As such, coaches will be trying to balance giving everyone game time experience with having to make decisions in order to field a competitive team. Here again, communication is key and any concerns or questions should be addressed **by the player with their coach**. The coach and the player can then discuss what the player can work on to increase their playing time.

Communication:

Early communication of expectations is very important. Consistent communication between athletes and coaches is encouraged throughout the season. **If the athlete is having an issue with the coach, parents should encourage the athlete to work the problem out with their coach first without direct parental involvement.** The athlete should always approach the coach quickly before issues become a detriment to the player or the team.

The chain of communication is as follows:

1. The athlete should speak with the coach about the problem. If this does not resolve the situation then,
2. The parent should make an appointment with the coach for a meeting (not on tournament day) with the athlete present. Some conflicts arise when there is a mis-communication from the coach to the player to the parent. Having the athlete present may help resolve the matter easier. If this does not solve the problem then,
3. A meeting with the coach, athlete, parent and the director of coaching/or team board rep. may be requested by any party.

Sometimes it is very difficult to accept that an athlete is not playing as much as they had hoped.

Ultimately unless the situation warrants it, parental involvement in matters of playing time, position or other game related issues is discouraged. Please remember that the coaches are the volleyball experts. They make decisions based on what they believe to be best for all athletes and the goals of the team.

When to communicate is just as important as what to communicate.

We suggest that you analyze the issue and pick the most appropriate time:

- A non-emotional issue might be able to be resolved before or after practice.
- If an issue is difficult and/or emotional, it is best to request a separate meeting with the coach. Trying to deal with it right before practice could be disruptive to the practice, not only for the player, but the coach and the other team members.
- Do not request to meet during a tournament. The coach is focused on working with the team.

* As an athlete or parent, if you have occasion to “passionately” disagree with a decision that the coach has made please observe a 24 hr. reflection period before contacting the coach.

- In regards to complaints: Parents are asked to refrain from negative comments around your child and other athletes. Young athletes are vulnerable and if they hear complaining about the coach, the coach’s style, or club policies this can have an adverse effect on their performance and/or attitude. If you as a Parent are unhappy about something you should talk to the coach or Board Member directly. Repetitive complaining to the athletes or other third parties (other parents/supporters) that interfere with the club’s efforts may be grounds for disciplinary action.

Tournament Guidelines

Travel to and from tournaments is the player’s family responsibility. While the tournament dates are secure, the OVA often leave tournament location details to the last moment. Unfortunately the club cannot control this. The coach will advise you on tournament details and arrival times at playing sites. It is the athlete’s responsibility to be aware of these details. While at tournaments athletes should stay with their team and be in full uniform. It is the responsibility of the athlete to confirm that their coach is aware of their location while at tournaments. If the team is staying overnight at a tournament it is suggested that the parents and players stay at the same hotel as the other teammates if possible. The coach will set the curfew during overnight stays. Proper nutrition is essential for any athlete who seeks success. Each athlete will need to eat properly for peak performance at tournaments. We encourage all athletes to carry healthy, nutritious food with them....not junk food!

Discipline (A form of corrective action deemed necessary to correct a team or individual problem)

If an athlete or parent fails to abide by the expectations and code of conduct they will be subject to disciplinary action as follows:

- a) verbal notification of the infraction from a member of the coaching staff or Board Member
- b) written notification of the infraction from a member of the Board
- c) suspension from Club activities for an indicated period of time, at the discretion of the Board
- d) Expulsion from the club at the discretion of the Board.

Drug, Alcohol & Tobacco

Possession and/or use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco are strictly prohibited at all Club activities including overnight tournament accommodation. If an athlete is caught with drugs, alcohol, or tobacco they will be subject to expulsion.

Athlete Fees

The Breakers Volleyball Club is a non-for profit club and works diligently to keep its fees as low as possible. Athlete subsidies are offered by the club (please contact a Member of the Board for further details). The player's family is obligated to fulfill their financial agreement with the club following the club's payment guidelines. Since our costs are fixed we are not able to refund or waive fees due to injuries or other reasons. Please speak to the Treasurer for special consideration of refunds. Athletes whose accounts are delinquent may be withheld from play and practice.