

# 2016-2017 Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball Player and Parent/Guardian Handbook

## REQUIREMENTS

1. Participants and their parent/guardian must read this handbook and sign on the Participation Signup.
2. The following forms must be completed by each participant:
  - Handbook Acknowledgment Form - *SIGNATURE(S) REQUIRED*
  - Pre-Registration Form - *COMPLETE TOP HALF*
  - NCR (North Country Region) USA Volleyball 2016 Individual Membership form
  - Code of Conduct Form - *SIGNATURE(S) REQUIRED*
  - Letter of Commitment - *SIGNATURE(S) REQUIRED*
  - Medical Information and Release Form - *SIGNATURE(S) REQUIRED*
  - Birth Certificate - *EACH PARTICIPANT MUST PROVIDE FOR SOUTHWEST FUSION JO VOLLEYBALL FILE (NEW SIGN UPS ONLY)*All players and coaches are required to attend an online officiating clinic (1 ½ hour).

## MISSION STATEMENT

Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball exists for the benefit of those young athletes who wish to achieve excellence in the sport of volleyball and to promote interest in the sport at the local level. We believe that through participation in structured practices and tournaments, our program teaches individuals to excel, promotes competitiveness, and develops leadership skills that transcend athletics into all aspects of a member's life.

## ORGANIZATION

Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball Board of Directors approves policy and determines long-range planning objectives for the program. Other committees, which are made up of parent volunteers, may be organized each year for the purpose of organizing fund-raising and assisting in other areas as needed. Questions concerning any of these activities may be directed to Vicky Krueger and/or Jan Schwanke, Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball email: swfusionvb@gmail.com Contact any board member if you have any items for discussion, suggestions or improvements to the Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball program.

Vicky Krueger, Director - 507-227-2833

Jan Schwanke, Director – 507-227-7387

Melonie Heiling – 507-227-2716

Heather Lothert - 507-828-2777

Heather Rogotzke – 507-227-7521

Stacey Weisensel – 507-227-4138

## PARTICIPATION FEES:

It is the responsibility of each player/parent to make sure that all financial obligations are made. **The fees are non-refundable after teams are formed. IF no fundraising was done you will get full payment back. If you did fundraising you will not receive any of your money back as that was raised/donated to Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball.** The following is the 2017 payment schedule keep in mind if you are moved up from a 10s or 12's team to an over 12's team then you pay that rate:

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**12 and under: \$150.00** (*All refundable IF not enough to make a team.*) (*Due Sunday, November 13, 2016 unless doing fundraiser then Monday, Nov. 28, 2016.*)

**Over 12: \$300.00** (*All refundable IF not enough to make a team.*) (*Due Sunday, November 15, 2015 unless doing fundraiser then Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016.*) *Additional \$50.00 is due at signup or you can sell 30 items. (If you sell under 30 items you will have to pay the full \$50.00) You can pay the full \$200.00 if you don't want to do any fundraising.*

\*If financial assistance is needed, please speak with Vicky or Jan to discuss your situation and to formulate an individual payment plan. There is scholarship money available if you can't afford the program, you will need to fundraise part of your payment.

- ALL fundraiser payments get made out to the parent of the player then you write one check to Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball.
- ALL fundraiser money raised is not returned if you decide not to go out.  
**Fund Raising: You can raise as much of your fee as you would like you will get 70% and club gets 30% of the total PROFIT.**

## **Fundraiser Options**

1. Sell Pillsbury® Chocolate Chip Cookie Tub
2. Sell Old Wisconsin Snack Sticks
3. Butter Braids
4. Outlaws Pizzas

## **EXPECTATIONS**

1. The goal of this league is to provide opportunities for competitive play and to improve the skills of the players in preparation for a higher level of school play.
2. The Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball expects all players to treat their teammates and coaches with respect, to play to the best of their ability, and to play to win.
3. Players must desire to improve and try things that may be difficult.
4. We expect parents and players to always show respect and good sportsmanship at home and away.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES AND CODE OF ETHICS**

(See NCR Code of Ethics sheet attached at the end of this handbook) Membership in Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball carries with it certain responsibilities to the organization. This applies not only to the club participants but to parents as well. Please keep in mind that you are not only representing yourself, but also the Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball organization.

1. Players, coaches and parents should have a general knowledge of the sport of volleyball, USA volleyball ([www.usavolleyball.com](http://www.usavolleyball.com)), Minnesota State High School League ([www.mshsl.org/mshsl/index.asp](http://www.mshsl.org/mshsl/index.asp)) and North Country Region USA Volleyball ([www.ncrusav.org](http://www.ncrusav.org)) rules and regulations.
2. When participating in a tournament, players and coaches should not leave personal property or team belongings unattended.
3. Players, parents, and coaches are responsible for leaving all facilities neat and clean. Please follow the rules of the sites regarding food, drink, and coolers.
4. No team member may leave an event without checking out with the team coach. If we are the last team to ref all the players are to remain as a team until we are finished.
5. If at any time you hear negative comments about area players, please report the behavior to the coach or board member. These reports will be addressed immediately.

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## AREA INVOLVEMENT, TEAMS, & COACHES

- Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball is open to players from Springfield and the surrounding area if we don't have enough to fill a team.
- Teams are formed according to age and/or the level of the player, and the input of the coaches.
- The school attended will be a strong consideration in team placement.
- Teams from area schools may enroll in Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball as a team (subject to approval and court time availability).
- Total number of teams that participate under the Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball program will be determined each year by the number of girls signing up. Such determination will be based on scheduling issues and court time availability.
- The Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball coaching staff will schedule and conduct skills assessments in order to observe and learn the players' abilities (*if needed*).
- Team placements will take place after NCR dues are paid and/or skills assessments (if needed). Team placements are final, unless specific circumstances warrant the Southwest Fusion Director and Coach to recommend assignment to a different team.
- It is the decision of the coach as to a player's position on the court. Coaches will consider team needs, experience, attitude, and practice effort when making final player position decisions. You may not be playing the same position that you do in high school. Knowing more than one position is always better. High School coaches will give feedback as to positing too.
- Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball teams will be formed according to NCR regulations.

## PRACTICES AND TOURNAMENTS

### Practices:

1. It is the goal of Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball to provide players with quality practices.
2. Players can expect 1 practice before a tournament about 6-10 from February-April depending on age group. (This may be altered to accommodate the coach's, players' schedules & school use).
3. Practices will last approximately one and a half to two hours, practice will be let out when the coach says not the clock.
4. Players should take care of themselves by stretching properly, eating right, and getting adequate rest, this is your job and not part of practice time.
5. Attendance will be noted by the Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball coaching staff. It is the responsibility of the parent or player to contact the coach if the player is unable to be at practice or will be late. Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball understands that our athletes participate in many other activities. **A player's first responsibility is to the school sport, then JO volleyball.** Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball leaves this decision up to the player and the parent/guardian.
6. It is expected that players will communicate with the team coach whenever scheduling conflicts arise. **However, the absence of one affects the entire team on a practice day. Attendance will play a role in the amount of playing time an athlete receives.**
7. Unexcused absences will affect playing position and play time with no to little play time in the next tournament.
8. Practices are not closed; however, coaches, at their discretion, may ask visitors to leave if they are causing a distraction.
9. Players are expected to assist with net set-up 10 minutes before the start of practice and take-down.

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10. If your school sport is done you are expected to come to JO practice even if it means only getting ½ hour of time in. If we find out you could have come to practice and didn't then expect no to little play time in the next tournament.
11. Sending a message with another player does not count toward letting your coach know, this is the players/parents/guardian's responsibility.
12. If you are in basketball and your team is still playing you are expected to still be at practice. (Most of the drills being done are the same as BB drills example side to side and jumping.)

## **Tournaments:**

1. Tournaments are scheduled with school activities in mind. **A player's first responsibility is to the player's school sport, then Springfield Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball.** Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball leaves this decision up to the player and the parent/guardian. It is expected that a player will communicate with the team coach whenever scheduling conflicts arise.
2. The number of tournaments each level participates in depends on several factors, including number of girls on the team and cost of each tournament. Each day of a multi day tournament will count as separate tournaments, example 2 day=2 tournaments, 3 day = 3 tournaments.
3. Most venues offer concessions but have limited seating it doesn't hurt to bring along chairs just in case.
4. Tournaments are on Saturday and/or Sunday. They generally begin around 8:00 am and usually last until late in the afternoon/evening.
5. Parents are responsible for transportation to and from tournaments. **Because of insurance/liability issues, players, siblings and/or boyfriends ARE NOT allowed to drive the player to or from any event.** This will be closely monitored by the board and the coaching staff.
6. Parents assume all financial and liability obligations for their child, hotel accommodations if needed will be posted on the website as a block of rooms but it will be each parent's responsibility to get a room. When staying at hotels, please remember that players are representing Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball with their attitude and behavior.

## **COMMUNICATION:**

**Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball website: <http://swfusionvb.tripod.com> (do not use www.)**

Frequently, pre-tournament information is often delayed and vague. The coaching staff will make every effort to release the information to the players as soon as it is available. As a parent/guardian, please familiarize yourself with the Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball website this is where you will get current tournament information. Please understand that sometimes last minute changes are made as late as Friday afternoon if teams drop and new brackets need to be made. Your patience and cooperation is appreciated.

## **WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

In the event of severe weather practice will be canceled. Players should check the Southwest Fusion JO website for notifications. Players may also be notified by e-mail or text message from your coach. If your school has been closed due to weather, practice will not be held. Players may also contact their coach for information.

## **INJURY POLICY**

All injuries must be reported immediately to the coach. In the event of an injury, the athlete will not be permitted to participate unless written clearance is obtained from the athlete's physician.

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## INSURANCE

USA Volleyball Insurance covers practices, sanctioned events, competitions and travel to and from such events. The coverage is secondary and provides benefits after the family policy has reached its limits or, in the event of no family insurance, then it will be enacted as primary. Please refer to the insurance fact sheet or to the NCR website: [www.ncrusav.org](http://www.ncrusav.org)

## UNIFORMS

According to NCR rules and regulations, all players must have identical uniforms (with the exception of a libero player). Uniforms will be handed out before the 1<sup>st</sup> games. It is the player's responsibility to have a laundered, presentable uniform for each game. If a player does not have a uniform, that player will not be eligible to play. After the player's completion of the Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball season you need to turn your uniform back in. (We normally collect all uniforms at the last tournament). 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade will get to keep their jersey.

## AGE CLASSIFICATIONS

***(I will mark which age group you will be playing in once we know who is all going out):***

NCR JUNIOR INFORMATION 2016-17

**\*ATTENTION: THESE ARE NEW AGE/GRADE CLASSIFICATION, READ CLOSELY\***

At the teenage level, the junior program offers competition to boys and girls after the high school season is over. The program divisions are: 18 and under, 17 and under, 16 and under, 15 and under, 14 and under, 13 and under, 12 and under, 11 and under and 10 and under. Athletes need not be currently enrolled in high school to participate. However, college students, regardless of age, are not eligible to compete in sanctioned Junior events. The following are the current age classifications:

18 and under Division: Players who were born on or after Sept. 1, 1998, or players who were born on or after Sept. 1, 1997, and a high school student during some part of the current academic year.

17 and under Division: Players who were born on or after Sept. 1, 1999. (Grade 11 North Country Region only!)\*

16 and under Division: Players who were born on or after Sept. 1, 2000. (Grade 10 North Country Region only!)\*

15 and under Division: Players who were born on or after Sept. 1, 2001. (Grade 9 North Country Region only!)\*

14 and under Division: Players who were born on or after Sept. 1, 2002. (Grade 8 North Country Region only!)\*

13 and under Division: Players who were born on or after Sept. 1, 2003. (Grade 7 North Country Region only!)\*

12 and under Division: Players who were born on or after Sept. 1, 2004. (Grade 6 North Country Region only!)\*

11 and under Division: Players who were born on or after Sept. 1 2005. (Grade 5 North Country Region only!)\*

10 and under Division: Players who were born on or after Sept. 1 2006. (Grade 4 North Country Region only!)\*

## COLLEGE PLAYERS

**Once a player participates in a club or varsity program for any university, college, community college or junior college they are not eligible to play in any NCR sanction junior events.**

## PLAYING TIME & POSITIONS

The biggest challenge for any coach is assigning playing time and positions to athletes. Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball gives complete discretion to the coaches in regards to playing time. The coach will evaluate the athletes' attitude, ability, practice attendance, needs of the team, competition of opponent and other individual philosophies when it comes to playing time. It is important that each athlete understand that she may not receive all the playing time that she believes she deserves.

In regards to positions on the floor, the coach will put athletes in a position that he or she feels best suits the team. It may or may not be the same position that the athlete plays in high school or junior high. The athlete is welcomed to train at multiple positions, but this will be at the

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discretion of the coach and time in practice. Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball coaches may hold team and/or individual meetings to discuss this subject and other philosophies the coach has. It is an expectation that the athlete respects the coaches' decisions and gives 100% effort towards the success of the team. We will also get feedback from High School coaches on where they would like the person to play for the upcoming season.

## **CONFLICTS & COMPLAINTS**

Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball would like to handle any conflicts and complaints in a professional manner. It is an expectation that all players and parents read the Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball Handbook before beginning the complaint process.

Playing time and position conflicts should first be discussed between the player and the coach. It is an expectation that both the coach and the player conduct any conversations in a civil manner, withholding any emotions that come with this subject. Any coach, at any time, has the right to have another staff member present for liability purposes. Any coach also has the right to set a time to meet with that athlete if there are no other staff members available. The coach has the right to end any meeting at any time if the conversation goes beyond a civil conversation.

If any parent or guardian has a conflict or complaint, we ask that they send an e-mail to the club director at [swfusionvb@gmail.com](mailto:swfusionvb@gmail.com) or write a letter and send it to Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball, 804 East Rock Street, Springfield, MN 56087. Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball believes that this policy is a great first step to open up communication doors without causing further problems. After the letter or e-mail is received, Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball will contact the parent/guardian to address the complaint or conflict and take steps to solve any issue. It is an expectation that each player, parent or guardian follows this policy. If not, the following discipline procedures will be enforced:

**1st Offense/Level One offense** - A level one offense is defined when a parent/guardian generally discusses playing time, positioning or coaching strategy with the coach at any time. This conversation is done on a concerned level, but done in a civil manner. It will also be considered an offense when a parent/guardian is verbally degrading the play of the team or another player during a match out loud. The player will be withheld from one match.

**2nd Offense/Level Two offense** - A level two offense is defined when a parent/guardian commits a level one offense for the second time. Also, a level two offense may be defined when a parent/guardian is behaving in an uncivil manner to a coach, player or team. The player will be withheld from the tournament for the remainder of the tournament.

**3rd Offense/Level Three offense** - A level three offense is defined as the "third strike, you're out." Two previous offenses plus a third offense, or any situation that goes above and beyond behaving in an uncivil manner to a coach, player or team will result in the player being removed from the program. The participant, parent or guardian will still be responsible for all financial commitments despite being removed from the program.

It is the hope of Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball that we don't reach these situations. However, it is a no-tolerance policy and no exceptions will be made. The Club Director will be responsible for all decisions in regards to discipline procedures. The parents will be notified of any infractions through a letter, e-mail, phone call or interpersonal civil discussion.

We hope to have your cooperation to make this program a great experience for all!

## **SEXUAL & NON-SEXUAL HARRASSMENT, VIOLENCE & ABUSE POLICY**

It is the policy of Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball to maintain learning and working environment that is free from all harassment, abuse, and violence. Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball prohibits

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any form of these and will investigate all complaints and take appropriate measures. Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball follows NCR policies and procedures.

## **REPORTING PROCEDURE**

1. If you are ineligible from playing in you High School sport because of grades, substance abuse or anything else you cannot play in JO VB tournaments either.
2. Victims of alleged harassment, violence, or abuse in either a sexual or non-sexual form should report the alleged acts immediately to board.
3. Any person and/or observer with knowledge or belief of conduct constituting such acts, should report the alleged acts immediately to board.
4. If you have experienced any acts or have questions about what constitutes a violation of this policy, you may contact the board for assistance.

Where not stated, Southwest Fusion JO Volleyball follows NCR, USA Volleyball and **MN State High School League Rules**.

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Player Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, (*player signature*) have read the 2016-2017 Southwest Fusion Handbook and agree to all the rules and regulations in order to play JO Volleyball.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, (*parent/guardian signature*) have read the 2016-2017 Southwest Fusion Handbook and agree to all the rules and regulations in order to play JO Volleyball.

PLEASE RETURN THE LAST PAGE OF  
THIS HANDBOOK TO YOUR COACH ON  
THE  
**1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF PRACTICE!!!**

**This is MANDATORY!!**