**EVBC HANDBOOK**

*This EVBC Handbook provides information about the program and is a written contract between parents, players, and the club to abide by the policies and procedures of the Earlham Volleyball Club and USAV. Each player, coach, and parent represent the club. The club expects all parents, players, and coaches to maintain a positive attitude and uphold the ideals of fair play and good sportsmanship.*

**Mission Statement**

The mission statement of Earlham Volleyball Club is to prepare athletes to compete at the highest levels for their age groups, better preparing them for middle school and high school volleyball. Our goal, within EVBC, is to get as much time on the court for each player while maintaining a very competitive environment. EVBC is a USA Volleyball (USAV) affiliated program. EVBC is considered a “feeder program” for Earlham High school, however, players from other school systems are welcome to try out.

**Disclaimer: 6th-11th Grade**

The amount of other 2A schools with their own club team in Iowa is slim to none, therefore, we play 3A, 4A, 5A, and tryout teams throughout Iowa. To be on these teams, you might have to pay thousands of dollars, have players that play only volleyball year-round, and in some cases, meet a height requirement. Because of these things, EVBC is an underdog in every tournament we enter. However, we believe that with a competitive mentality and a willingness to work hard, our teams will improve throughout the season and be more ready than ever to tackle school ball in the fall.

**Coaching Staff**

EVBC aims to provide a positive environment for youth volleyball players to develop volleyball skills with an emphasis on effort and sportsmanship. Coaches are committed to the following goals:

* Promote good sportsmanship.
* Model the type of behavior expected of athletes.
* Communicate regularly and extensively via email with players and parents about all practices and tournaments.
* Establish team and individual goals for players and provide honest, regular feedback.
* Adhere to the USAV or AAU rules and procedures.

**Parent Commitment**

We understand that it is our responsibility to provide positive support for our daughter, her teammates, her coaches, her opponents, officials, and EVBC.

AS A PARENT, I WILL…

* Promote good sportsmanship.
* Respect the officials.
* Refrain from coaching from the sidelines.
* Encourage my child to speak directly with her coach about coaching decisions
* Wait at least 24 hours to contact a coach or club director after a tournament if I have concerns or questions about coaching decisions made at the tournament.
* Follow the “chain of command” to lodge a complaint. If the player-coach meeting doesn’t solve an issue, a meeting will be scheduled with the parents, player, coach and club director.

**Player Commitment**

I understand that it is my goal to exhibit good sportsmanship to my teammates, my coaches, my opponents, officials, EVBC, and myself.

AS A PLAYER, I WILL…

* Promote good sportsmanship.
* Respect the officials, coaching staff and my teammates.
* Always give full effort in practice and in games.
* Notify the coach if I can’t attend a practice or tournament.
* Communicate directly with coaches. Players are encouraged to ask questions.

**Additional Parent & Player Information**

* No player is guaranteed playing time in a tournament.
* No player is guaranteed a specific position. All positions are determined by the coaches. The coach will assess strengths and weaknesses of all players to determine where an athlete best fits in the lineup.
* The team on which a player is placed on is determined by the coaches and club director. This decision will be made after taking into account volleyball skills and volleyball IQ.
* No position or team is guaranteed for future seasons. Each new season, the number of teams and the roster will be determined by practices or tryouts held in the current season.

**Two Teams**

If there are enough players in a grade to make two teams, all players will practice together until December. At that point, the players will be divided into two separate teams. As previously stated, this decision will be made after taking into account volleyball skills and volleyball IQ. No player’s spot is safe on a team from year to year as players will have improved from last season.

**Potential Consequences for Behavior**

* Problem behavior = discussion/suspension from play (coach/club director)
* Unexcused absences = suspension from play (coach)
* Unsportsmanlike behavior = suspension from play (coach)
* Not actively participating while reffing/scoring = suspension from play (coach)