

BLUE CRUSH VOLLEYBALL CLUB HANDBOOK



“PRACTICING EXCELLENCE”

2011-2012

BLUE CRUSH VOLLEYBALL CLUB

25 CAVALIER BLVD

FLORENCE, KY 41042

BCVBC website: www.bluecrushvbclub.com

Email at: bcvbc@insightbb.com

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Blue Crush Volleyball Club's 4TH Season. Blue Crush Volleyball Club was brought about in early 2008 when we were a local recreational team that wanted more competition. In May 2008 after the club season came to an end, we realized that there was a strong need for more competitive teams in Northern Kentucky and a growing number of players looking for teams. Thus, Blue Crush Volleyball Club was launched in the fall of 2008. We currently support girls' teams, age's 12U-18U, with the long range goals of adding boys' volleyball.

Blue Crush Volleyball Club, ("BCVBC") and ("Blue Crush"), is governed by a Board of Directors made up of a Director, Treasurer, Secretary, Scheduling Director, Crush Tournament Chair, Fundraising Chair, Uniform/Spirit Wear Chair and Media Chair. We are recognized as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization.

We have put this Handbook together to give you general information about Junior Olympic volleyball, as well as BCVBC - its philosophies, and what it takes to become a successful volleyball team and club. We are very excited that you have chosen BCVBC for your 2011-2012 club season.

BLUE CRUSH MISSION STATEMENT

BCVBC is committed to providing the best possible environment for our volleyball players. Our goal is to help each of our players reach their maximum playing potential through excellence in coaching, parental support, as well as team and club support. Our players will be challenged to excel not only in their own personal growth – as young adults and players, but to also excel for our Club and our local community.

We believe that active, talented and determined players are often not given a fair opportunity to play club volleyball. At BCVBC, our commitment to each and every player with the potential to succeed is that they will not be turned away due to inability to pay club fees. BCVBC provides fundraising and payment plans that help offset, and/or pay for their club fees. We expect in return that your family utilize the fundraising opportunities and volunteer to help out to give back to the other players. We also expect that scholarship players be present at ALL functions with their teams which include, practice, team gatherings and tournaments. If these stipulations are not met, your daughter could lose playing time or even removed from the team.

BCVBC will support regional/club and national/open teams for the 2011-2012 club season. The long range goal is to move all of our teams to the open category for the opportunity to play at the national level for 2013 and beyond. BCVBC's teams are in the 12U-18U age division and are registered with the USA Volleyball ("USAV") - Pioneer Region Volleyball ("PRV") Club (<http://www.usavolleyball.org>); (<http://www.pioneervb.com/>).

BCVBC WEBSITE AND E-MAIL ADDRESS

The BCVBC website address is www.bluecrushvbclub.com. This website will be our tool to communicate with both the parents and players. Therefore, it will be mandatory that all parents/players register on the BCVBC website. To do this, you will click on the parents' tab and follow instructions to register. If your daughter is not registered on our website and does not accept the online agreement, she cannot play until this takes place and that includes practices.

The BCVBC website is a user-friendly site for our parents and players. The site will be continually updated and will hold important information and updates, such as practices schedules, tournament dates, player profiles, team outings

and changes to schedules due to inclement weather. Throughout the season, parents and players are encouraged to submit any team photos to your Team Parent Representative, for inclusion on the website. BCVBC has purchased the domain name thereby making it searchable by colleges and recruiters. Please check the website weekly to see if there is anything new and exciting.

We strive to keep parents and players as informed and up to date as possible. Therefore, it will be important to notify your Team Parent Representative and the BCVBC Director of any email and /or telephone/cell phone changes that you may have during the season to ensure that you receive timely updates. Periodically, you will get an email blast from BCVBC to update you on important Club information. If inclement weather or other situations force a practice cancellation, BCVBC will have the ability to record a message blast to send to all registered phone numbers.

As a parent or player, feel free to contact us at any time via e-mail at bcvbc@insightbb.com or by clicking the CONTACT US tab on the homepage of the website at www.bluecrushvbclub.com.

PAYMENT OF FEES

All payments should be mailed to:
BLUE CRUSH VOLLEYBALL CLUB
25 Cavalier Blvd
Florence, KY 41042

**Note: BCVBC Coaches and Board Members Are
Instructed Not To Collect Any Form of Payment from Parents or
Players except for BCVBC Treasurer.**

Fees are due at the beginning of every month and broken down below. If you choose to pay your entire club fee upfront, you will be given a 5% discount. We understand that not all parents can pay the entire fee upfront and that is completely acceptable. However we expect all fees to be paid on time. We rely on the monthly payments to pay for court costs, uniforms and tournaments. If payments are not received on time, your daughter will not be able to practice or play in upcoming tournaments until payment is received. A minor grace period will be given until the 5th of the month for mailed payments.

If you are participating in a fundraiser, we will no longer be allowing you to wait until fundraiser is over to have it applied to your payment. Your payment must be made on time so that you are not assessed a late fee and any amount left over will be refunded or held over for next season, it's your discretion.

FEE BREAKDOWN:

INITIAL DEPOSIT: DUE AT PARENT MEETING IN NOVEMBER (amounts will be determined by team and this will be given once player makes prospective team)

DECEMBER 1ST, JANUARY 1ST, FEBRUARY 1ST AND MARCH 1ST.

The following is included in your BCVBC fees, regardless of which team your player participates on:

- 👤 USAV/Pioneer Region Registration
- 👤 Uniforms for USAV/Pioneer Region Teams
- 👤 Coaching Salary
- 👤 Court Rental and/or Usage Fees
- 👤 Equipment Usage and Replacement
- 👤 Coaches Background Checks
- 👤 Insurance
- 👤 BCVBC Administration Fees
- 👤 Coaches Mileage, Food & Lodging (*Players Travel And Lodging Is Not Included In Club Fees* Nor are Coaches travel cost to and from Nationals)
- 👤 Performance Training held at All Star Performance Training

RETURN CHECK POLICY

BCVBC's policy is to deposit returned checks automatically and without notice. A \$30 processing fee will be charged for checks returned by the bank for non-sufficient funds (NSF checks) or any other reason. In addition, the bank charges a Return Check Fee of \$10 to BCVBC. This fee will be charged back to the player's account as well as the returned check fee and must be paid immediately. When a check is returned, BCVBC reserves the right to require payment by cash or certified funds.

New bank procedures sometimes allow for checks to be processed electronically which requires additional procedures to collect upon. The check is returned to us as an image and is NOT able to be re-presented to the bank for collection. If this occurs in any case, the returned check will be charged a \$40 fee plus the \$10 bank fee for collections. When a check is returned, BCVBC reserves the right to require payment by cash or certified funds.

BCVBC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BCVBC will consist of a panel of Board Members – a Board of Directors including a Director, Treasurer, Secretary, Scheduling Director, Crush Tournament Chair, Fundraising Chair, Uniform/Spirit Wear Chair and Media Chair for 2011-2012 season.

The Board will meet once a month throughout the season to ensure that the BCVBC Mission Statement is followed and to discuss club issues. If there is a pressing issue that needs to be addressed, such as a grievance, budget issue, or team issues etc., the Director can call a special meeting of the Board.

Any general comments or suggestions should go through the proper channel and will be brought to the table at the monthly meeting. Blue Crush has put together Staff Profiles on the Contact Us tab at www.bluecrushvbclub.com in order to help you determine the best staff member to reach out to. If the suggestion is time sensitive, please contact the Club Director and we can determine if a special meeting needs to be called. It is very important for all members of the Blue Crush Family to give feedback to the members of the board and ensure that the Club is listening to parents.

Any grievances however, should be discussed with the Club Director (Clara England). We want to have an open door policy when it comes to issues – if parents do not come forward with an issue, we cannot address it. If it is an issue with the Coach, please follow the procedures outlined in the Coaching Policies and the Grievance Section of your Handbook.

At any time, the Director can remove a Board Member if they feel they are not fulfilling their role on the Board. The procedure for removing a Board Member will be:

First, a meeting will be called with the Director, Secretary and the Board Member in question to discuss the issue at hand with the member. If it is not resolved,

Second, the Board Member will be required to step down from the Board and a new election will be held,

Third, once elected, a special meeting will be called to introduce and update the new member of the Board with the club happenings.

VOLLEYBALL FACILITY

BCVBC is proud to announce that beginning this 2011-2012 season, we have entered into a partnership agreement with Midwest Sports Complex, 25 Cavalier Blvd. Florence, KY 41042 – for usage rights to their facility. This partnership will give BCVBC the following benefits:

- All BCVBC practices, clinics and scrimmages to run from one facility;
- The BCVBC Crush 'Em Classic Tournaments to be hosted from one facility; and
- No Membership requirement for players, on top of season volleyball fees.

2011-2012 COACHING STAFF

PLEASE SEE BCVBC WEBSITE UNDER TEAMS AND CLICK COACHES. COACHES BIO'S ARE LISTED THERE AS WELL.

COACHING AND PLAYING PHILOSOPHY

BCVBC's philosophy is that the practices are the time to improve skills and work on new drills. Providing there is no interference with the practice, all practices will be open to parents and family of individual players. As the teams begin to practice and mesh as a team, emphasis will shift from the individual to the team building skills. Fundamentals are very important and are emphasized initially and as well as throughout the season, and are used to develop proficient offensive and defensive tactics.

Practices are usually held twice weekly and will last approximately 2 hours. The practice will consist of continued skills level training and move forward from individual play to team play as stated above. Each Player will be required to attend 1 hour of performance training at ***All Star Performance Training*** at least once a week. BCVBC feels that practice time should be spent on skills and team building so we have implemented performance training so players can improve vertical, speed and agility. All Star Performance Training will assess each player at the first appointment and continue to record progress which will be reported to the Director, coach and players parents for review.

A continual source of frustration for players and parents alike is the issue of playing time. The reality is that equal playing time cannot be guaranteed. As players get older, the natural progression of this game is for some players to become more specialized in certain positions. It is our goal to place players in positions that best suit them and the team they contribute to. Based on position, a player may play back row and rotate out or play front row and rotate out when reaching the back. It is important for parents and players to understand that the goal is to compete successfully at tournaments and go to the next level. If a player believes that they are not being treated fairly and playing an inappropriate amount, it should be discussed with the Coach first in a polite and respectful manner. If it cannot be satisfactorily resolved at this level, it should be taken to BCVBC Club Director - Clara England. Only in the most extreme cases should a parent get involved. Please keep in mind, the Coaches see your player at each practice and may see something that parents do not.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Competitive team athletics, by its very nature, creates situations where everyone may not be happy all the time. Knowing when to communicate and how to communicate with your player's Coach may be a concern for parents at some time during the season. Most often the concerns, again, surround the amount of playing time. At BCVBC, we encourage the player to take responsibility for their participation, **NO MATTER THEIR AGE**. For this reason we expect the player to talk to the Coach when they have a problem concerning their playing time, or if they are unclear about what a Coach expects. The appropriate way to do this is for the player to ask the Coach what they need to do to get more opportunities to play in matches. Most of the time, the player knows why they may not be playing as much as another teammate when the parent may not. Parents can best help their player by helping them set some goals to achieve more opportunities.

When a parent has a problem that is specific to their own player, we also expect them to respectfully first talk to their player's Coach at an appropriate place and time. **WE AT BLUE CRUSH EXPECT A PARENT TO GIVE THEMSELVES 24 HOURS BEFORE APPROACHING, E-MAILING, TEXTING OR EVEN CALLING A COACH ABOUT AN ISSUE, NO MATTER THE PROBLEM OR SITUATION IN REFERENCE TO THE PROBLEM.** The Coach will not be required to defend his/her thought process or conclusions in the determination of playing time, and it is improper and unacceptable for a parent to request such an explanation. It is never acceptable to confront a Coach at a tournament and will not be tolerated.

Specifically, the procedures to follow if parents or players have concerns about Club policies or a Coach's actions are:

The player will speak or meet with the Coach to discuss the matter. If the matter remains unresolved, or if the player has reasonable concern that speaking to the Coach will not resolve the matter,

The parent should speak to or meet with the Coach after the 24 hour period has expired. Parents should call or e-mail the Coach at bcvbc@insightbb.com to set a meeting. Meetings are to be at times and locations other than tournaments. If a Coach is approached by a parent during a tournament, the Coach has been instructed to refuse to discuss any controversial matter, to refer the parent to the Club Director and to walk away from the situation. The recommended time for a parent and/or player to talk to a Coach about a problem is a previously arranged meeting time either before or immediately after a scheduled practice. If the matter remains unresolved, or if the parent has reasonable concern that speaking to the Coach will NOT resolve the matter,

The parent may speak to the Club Director and the Coach. In certain situations, BCVBC may ask the player to attend the meeting also. Meetings should be previously arranged. Meetings will not be scheduled during a tournament. The Coach and Club Director will not engage in discussions about coaching decisions.

If the problem remains unresolved, the final resolution will be to hold a meeting between the Board and parent(s). Members of the Board must have no personal interest in the outcome of the grievance, therefore if the parent is on the Board of Directors an impartial 3rd party may be asked to stand in.

OTHER POLICIES REGARDING GRIEVANCES

Blue Crush will not tolerate hostile, aggressive confrontations between a parent and any official, or a parent and any Coach, or a parent and any player, or a parent and any other parent, whether the Coach, player or other parent is a member of Blue Crush or not. Violation of this policy may result in the player being dismissed from Blue Crush without refund.

It is inappropriate for a player or a parent to approach other Blue Crush members about a problem the player or parent is having with a Blue Crush Coach, about objections to coaching decisions, or about disagreement with an administrative decision. Asking uninvolved people to take sides in an issue is unfair to the third party and to the Club. For the psychological health of the teams and the Club as a whole, grievances need to be handled between the parties involved and in the proper manner.

If a player or parent is approached and asked to listen to, or express an opinion about matters between two other parties in the Club, it is strongly encouraged to refer the complaining party to take the matter up with the Coach in question, the Head Coach and/or the Club Director.

Any member who, as a third party, hears remarks or stories about Blue Crush, its employees or its policies, that cause the member to be concerned, is encouraged to contact the Head Coach and/or the Club Director immediately by phone or e-mail to determine the facts, or to alert the Club's Board of Directors to a situation it may be unaware of. It is detrimental to everyone involved to repeat complaints you hear or overhear to other uninvolved parties. By the time a story gets to the third or fourth party, it frequently bears little resemblance to the truth or the facts of the situation.

Please refrain from negative comments around your player or other players. Young players are vulnerable and if they hear complaining about the Coach, the Coach's style or BCVBC policies, this can have an adverse effect on their performance and/or attitude. If, as a parent, you are unhappy about something, please follow the grievance procedure of this guide to resolve the matter. Repetitive complaining to the player(s) or other third parties that interferes with the Club's efforts to pursue its stated mission and purpose may be cause for dismissal from the Club.

RULES

While representing Blue Crush, all players/parents are expected to behave in a responsible manner. When wearing Blue Crush Uniforms, Warm-Ups, T-Shirts or anything with Blue Crush on it, you are representing The Blue Crush Volleyball Club. We want to be known for our good sportsmanship, great team rapport and integrity by our player's Coaches and parents and encourage our parents and players to behave with that goal in mind.

Any player damaging equipment owned by Blue Crush or any facility used by BCVBC during practices, tournaments, or other functions, or at lodging facilities will be required to reimburse the Club and/or facility for the damages before continuing with BCVBC. In some cases, the player may be dismissed from the Club all together.

PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

Just showing up for practice is not enough. BCVBC needs players who are punctual, who are in the proper frame of mind to work hard, and who pay attention to Coaches and cooperate with teammates and Coaches.

Commitment: It is vital to be committed to the BCVBC program. If you don't really want to participate, please don't. If you work hard in practices, matches and scrimmages, you are likely to have a successful season. Players who are committed to improving have little time for those who simply wish to turn practice into social events.

Regular Attendance: We know that not all players can show up to every practice. However, it is important to attend every possible practice. 24-hour notice to your Coach is expected when you know you will miss practice, and 48-hour notice is expected when you know you will miss a tournament. Emergencies need to be just that, emergencies. If you have a question about what constitutes an emergency, please contact your Coach.

Arrival times: Scheduled practice time is START time, not arrival time. Please plan on arriving at least 15 minutes prior to the start of each practice. Arrival time for tournament locations will be determined by your Coach. There will be consequences for arriving late to practice and tournaments and these consequences are determined by your coach and the frequency of these events. REMEMBER EARLIER IS ALWAYS BETTER!

Miscellaneous: Players are encouraged to eat right before both a practice and a tournament and should always bring water, in an unbreakable container, to practice and tournaments. Absolutely no glass containers are allowed in the gyms. All jewelry should be removed prior to practice and tournaments. Chewing gum at practice or tournament will be left to the discretion of the Coach.

Tournaments: Carpooling is important and expected to and from tournaments. A player should never be left behind because they don't have a ride. Reach out to your Team Parent Representative or your Coach if you cannot find a ride to a tournament or practice, 24 hours in advance.

It is the player's responsibility to reach out to the Coach, not the parents, if she cannot attend a tournament.

Officiating: Officiating is the shared responsibility of the entire team. All BCVBC athletes are required to attend a scorekeeper clinic and help with the line judging, scorekeeping, score flipping, and officiating. Each coach or team parent will determine a procedure their team will follow for officiating assignments even if that means making a schedule. EVERY PLAYER IS REQUIRED TO STAY UNTIL THE ENTIRE TEAM CAN LEAVE. PLEASE, DO NOT ASK THE COACH IF YOU CAN LEAVE EARLY. YOU ARE EXPECTED TO STAY!

OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTS

Because we operate on a very tight budget and volunteers perform much of the work that needs to be done, there are many ways parents can help.

Pick your child up on time from practices and tournaments. Parents, it is very important that you do not drive up to a practice facility, drop off your player or players and leave without first checking that there is an adult inside affiliated with BCVBC and that it is OK to leave them. Please always walk your players inside to make sure they are being supervised as all of our facilities require an adult to be present. It is also required that whomever is picking up your player needs to come into the facility to get them. Our coaches are responsible for your daughters and they need to know that someone is there to get them. Although we do not want to get in the middle of family matters, it is important we know if there is someone who should not be picking up your player. Help with the transportation of players and Coaches to out of town tournaments. Be positive and encourage your player. Do not yell at the team, Coaches, referees, and line judges, the other team's players and Coaches. Above all, encourage your player and teammates. It is never appropriate to criticize a player in front of your child or to other parents in the stands or to Coaches. Parents who violate this will be asked not to attend the tournaments. In extreme cases of parental misconduct, the player will be removed from the Club.

Attend team organizational meetings. Most teams will get together before the season to get acquainted. Each team and Coach has slightly different philosophies. Get to know your player's Coach.

Pay your Club fees on time. Budgets are designed to meet expenses and if fees are not paid, we will not be able to meet those expenses in a timely fashion. If fees are not paid, your player will not be permitted to participate in practices and tournaments.

Identify potential sponsors for the club. This year we will add a sponsor page to our website enabling companies to advertise on our site in return for sponsoring us, help plan fundraisers and special events. Solicit corporate sponsorships – many parents have contacts that may be able to assist us in sponsoring our teams.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM BCVBC

We are the club of tomorrow, allowing girls to play the sport they love, grow as a team, make friends and bonds that last for life. We expect to grow over the next few years and we want you to continue to grow with us. We want to deliver to you as players and parent an exceptional experience and build this Club on character and pride! You can expect that the Coaches and Board of Directors will be approachable and will be upfront with all issues and resolve them in a timely manner. You can expect us to guide your players and build competitive teams for today, tomorrow and years to come.

AMENDMENTS

During the 2011-2012 Blue Crush volleyball season, there may be amendments to the Club Handbook. Please understand that any changes made will be to the benefit of the Club, the parents and players. All changes will be made jointly by the Director's and all Board members. You will be made aware of the new Handbook and asked to accept the handbook amendments via e-mail. All adjustment suggestions should go through the proper channels on the Contact Us page, and be will passed on to all of the Board Members. For questions please contact us either via our website www.bluecrushvbclub.com or via e-mail at bcvbc@insightbb.com.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

The personal information that you provide to apply for membership is used within BCVBC to provide the services that we offer to you. BCVBC does not share your personally identifiable information with any nonaffiliated third party businesses, organizations, or individuals.