

Western Wisconsin Volleyball Association



Player/Parent Smash Handbook

Updated October 2018

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About WWVA

Western Wisconsin Volleyball Association (WWVA) was developed in 2012 to foster options to the volleyball community in Western Wisconsin. WWVA provides its athletes with the technical, tactical, and physical training to reach their highest potential as a volleyball player.

WWVA is a member of the Badger Region of USA Volleyball. USA Volleyball is the national governing body along with the US Olympic committee and is responsible for local, regional, national and international competition. All players, coaches, parent organizers, and administrators involved in SMASH are required to obtain USAV membership.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide a supportive environment in which athletes receive training in the skills and techniques of competitive volleyball, while enhancing and developing values that foster leadership in life as well as on the court. Also helping the athletes develop and grow responsibility, self-discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship and an appreciation for their community.

Program Overviews

The SMASH/JO (Junior Olympics) program is for ages 12-18 that wish to play in a higher competitive level. They will have strength training, advanced level skill training, practices, and tournaments. They will also learn how-to score and ref games and then apply those skills during tournaments.

Our season runs from tryouts in mid-November through early March, for 15s – 18s teams, and possibly into early April for our 12s – 14s teams. Practices are held in and/or around the area 2 to 3 nights per week. Tournaments will take place two or three times each month and held on Saturday and/or Sunday.

Commitment to SMASH

We understand the difficulty in balancing academics, sports, family, and social life. A major lesson every athlete must learn is *how to plan ahead*. We expect players to be responsible individuals in knowing that lack of foresight is not an acceptable excuse in missing practices or tournaments.

In regard to being involved with other school sports and/or activities, it is up to the player to set her own priorities. SMASH expects that every player will do everything possible to fulfill her commitment to her SMASH team. The consequences for missing a practice or tournament, for a school activity, are no different from other **legitimate** reasons. When an athlete misses an opportunity to practice, she misses an opportunity to improve. Not only does this affect an individual's performance, it affects the performance of the **team**. For our teams to compete at the highest level, our athletes need to remember the required commitment made to SMASH.

Athletes who have excessive absences will experience limited playing time at tournaments. The WWVA Board will also receive the names of these athletes and it may be a factor in team selection in subsequent seasons.

Tryouts

Each year we evaluate a large number of athletes during tryouts, and we evaluate every athlete every year for all age levels. Each athlete must come to tryouts ready to compete for a place on one of our teams. An athlete with a limiting physical or medical condition should contact the club prior to tryouts.

Players should never assume, because they are on a team one year, they will make a team the following year. Each year, athlete's skills improve and each year the pool of athletes to choose from will change. Some athletes have extensive playing experience while others do not.

We base our selections on what the athletes do during the tryout period and what we perceive their potential to be.

Attire

Only provided warm-ups and uniforms will be allowed to be worn at tournaments.

Smash will provide the following as part of the player's uniform:

- Warm-Up Uniform
 - Pants
 - Jacket
- Uniform
 - Jersey
 - Socks

The player will need to provide the following:

- Black spandex shorts
 - Need to have **at least** a 3" inseam
 - Need to completely cover the player's "bottom"
- Athletic Shoes
- We highly recommend black kneepads.

The uniforms above are for the player to keep after the season has ended. However, any item lost, damaged or stolen will need to be replaced at the player's expense. It is the player's responsibility to contact the coach.

A player cannot wear jewelry, watches; however, she is allowed to wear barrettes or bobby pins (different from WIAA rules). Hair **must** be pulled back.

Practices

Players are expected to attend ALL practices. Coaches will handle missed practices on an individual basis at their own discretion.

- 2 – 3 nights per week for typically about 2 hours
- Dropping your player off at practice, make sure the coach is there
- Arrive 15 minutes early, to set-up nets and complete warm ups
- Be on time picking up your player
- No gum
- Water bottle
- Hair pulled back
- No jewelry
- No electronics
- If
- School cancelled → Practice cancelled
- Going to be late or absent → Communicate with coach
- Ill from school → **Not** allowed at practice & Communicate with coach asap

ONLY IMPACT-CERTIFIED COACHES MAY BE PRESENT ON THE PRACTICE OR COMPETITION COURT(S).

We kindly ask that parents refrain from being “spectators” at practices.

Playtime

In SMASH, each coach has a personal view and politics on playtime. Players and parents are advised that time spent participating in practice, your attitude, knowledge and skill determines playing time, **NOT YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES**. Players are guaranteed equal practice opportunities, but not equal playing time in tournaments.

Competitive players always want to be on the court, but the attitude SMASH is looking for is “what can I do to help the team?” Each player must be aware of their importance to the team, in whatever role that may be.

Tournaments

Most tournaments start between 8:00am and 9:00am. Tournaments will usually consist of a 4 or 5 team pool. Pool play is usually followed by a single elimination playoff, sometimes called ‘bracket play’. Again, this will vary depending on the tournament format, but the final round of bracket play often lasts until 5 or 6 p.m.

Teams will be required to supply referees, line judges and score keepers. All team members are expected to stay at the tournament until excused by the coaching staff. Before leaving a tournament site, it is necessary to clean up our “area”. Tournament directors can fine teams for any mess left at the tournament site.

No cell phones or electronic devices should be at the scorekeeping tables or used by any player with a ref assignment. If seen by the coach, they will be confiscated and turned over to the parent(s). If a parent is not present, the phone or device will be held by the coach until the end of the day.

PLEASE NOTE: It is crucial that you check winter driving conditions before traveling to allow for adequate time and safe passage.

TOURNAMENTS ARE USUALLY NOT CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER.

Spectator Behavior

In our spectator enthusiasm, we are often prone to issue several instructions to the players that may be contrary to those of the coach, much to the confusion of the players. Please do not interfere with a team's coach, especially during play, or do anything else that will detract from the enjoyment your child deserves to get from volleyball. We ask that all spectators let the athletes play to the best of their ability and leave what coaching is needed, to the coach.

Stating disagreement or shouting derogatory remarks, at players, coaches and officials serves no useful purpose. **Any parent whose words or actions reflect negatively on their child's team, coach or SMASH will be asked to leave the tournament.**

Expectations

1) Player Expectations

- To be a good teammate
- To be coachable
- To put 100% effort into practice and tournaments
- Communicate with teammates and coaches
- Be accountable and responsible
- Good sportsmanship
- Be positive and respectful
- Be aggressive on the court
- HAVE FUN!!!

2) Coaches Expectations

- To teach the game of volleyball in a positive manner
- Promote a trusting environment
- Help each player play to their best potential
- To communicate with players and parents
- To treat all players and parents with respect
- To represent the program and the community in a positive way

3) Parents Expectations

- Support your player in a positive manner on and off the court
- Communicate with coaches
- To represent the program and community in a positive way
- Encourage and support all players and coaches
- Support the style of play the athlete is being taught
- Let the coaches do their job; coaching from the sidelines and bleachers only confuses and frustrates the players
- Trust the coaches are doing what is right for the players and the team.
- REMEMBER this is a competitive league – doesn't mean equal playing time.
- Do not approach the refs.
- Do not approach the score table or line judge.
- Do not approach the coach (see 24 hour rule).

24 Hour Rule

If at any point, you disagree with something that happened at a tournament or with a coach's decision - please wait 24 hours before talking to any coaching staff or board member about the issue at hand. Your communication with the coach, the board, or anyone in the organization should be done with respect and appropriateness.

Volunteering

If there are any home tournaments, you need to volunteer 4 hours at the tournament. If you do not it will result in your player not being about to play in the tournament.

Conflict Resolution Procedure

The following guidelines have been established to protect the players, coaches and parents from uncomfortable and inappropriate situations when it comes to the professional discussion and handling of grievances. The coaches within Western Wisconsin Smash have been instructed to adhere to these guidelines to better maintain the club/player/parent relationship.

The procedure to discuss concerns about policies and actions are as follows:

- 1) The athlete should speak with the coach regarding the matter *since she is beginning to move into the adult world. One of our goals is to make them responsible for their own actions.*
- 2) If the matter remains unresolved, and there is a legitimate concern, the parent AND athlete should request via email to meet with the coach. Coaches will ONLY meet with parents when the athlete is present, and not at a tournament.
 - a) Please do not confront a coach before, during or after an event. Arrange to meet with your coach at a convenient time for all parties, including before or after practice. *WW Smash will require 24 hours from the time of an incident before a meeting is able to be scheduled.*
 - b) If a parent approaches a coach during a tournament, we have instructed our coaches to refuse to discuss the situation, to refer the parent to a club director, and walk away.
 - c) We also instruct our coaches not to get involved in a texting conversation.

3) If the matter still remains unresolved, the parent can request a meeting with the club director, along with the coach and the player. THE PLAYER MUST BE PRESENT AT THE MEETING. *No conversations will be held without the athlete in attendance, to make sure that everyone is getting and giving the same message.*

It is important that players and parents alike understand that conversation with a coach is allowed and encouraged at any time throughout the season as long as it is civil and polite. However, when problems arise, we will all need to be rational and calm before discussion occurs.

Refund Policy

Due to our non-profit status and budget requirements, we do not offer refunds. Refunds will not be given to athletes who choose not to play because of conflicts, team or coaching assignments, or an individual's amount of playing time.

Prorated refunds will be considered for athletes who suffer season-ending injuries while playing on a WW Smash team, on a case-by-case basis with a physician's letter. Injuries occurred outside of WW Smash will not be considered for a refund.

Contact Information

Any questions or concerns can be emailed to
wwva.volleyball@gmail.com.

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PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO YOUR COACH @ 1st PRACTICE

Student/Parent Handbook for SMASH

Signature Page

I have read the entire Student/Parent Handbook for SMASH, and I understand what is expected of me as an athlete. I agree to follow all policies in this handbook, and I promise to always represent my club in a positive manner. I understand that any violation of this handbook will result in consequences.

I also understand that this handbook is in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week both inside and outside of SMASH related activities.

Player's Name (Print): _____

Player's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____