

Smoky Mountain

**Juniors Volleyball
Club**

Policy Handbook

2008-2009

Table of Contents

Contact Information.....	03
Mission.....	04
Goals.....	04
Team Selection & Tryouts	04
Registration, Club Fee & Payment Schedule.....	05
Training Sessions.....	07
Tournaments.....	07
Ethics & Conduct.....	08
Sexual Harassment.....	10
Playing Time.....	11
Grievances.....	12
Travel.....	13
Insurance Coverage.....	14
Injuries/Illness.....	14
Website.....	14
Membership Agreement/Grievance Policy Contract....	15
Informational, Optional, and Uniform Order Forms....	Appendix A
Registration Packet.....	Appendix B

SMJVC Advisory Committee

Executive Director - Carmen Foster

Email: pepperguru@yahoo.com

213 Brown Mountain Loop

Knoxville, TN 37920

H: (865) 573-4933

W: (865) 574-5340

Assistants to the Director – Christine and J Hames

Email: jandwillie@yahoo.com

Business Manager - Tami Newsom

Email: tnewsom3@utk.edu

Business Address: SMJVC
P.O. Box 31404
Knoxville, TN. 37930

Please mail all payments to this address.

Please do not give money to coaches.

SMJVC BOARD

Parent Representative: Karla McMaster
Email: karla.mcmaster@petnetsolutions.com
H: (865) 481-3875

Community Liaisons: Donna Basham
Dr. Angela Batey

**Parent Board
Members-at-Large:** John Arthur
Joan Ewers
Susanne Gregg

IMPORTANT NOTE:

In order to minimize costs, SMJVC conducts business via email.

Please allow your email address to receive messages, with attachments from the following SMJVC official addresses:

pepperguru@yahoo.com

abatey@utk.edu

tnewsom3@utk.edu

jjhames@bellsouth.net

Mission

The Smoky Mountain Juniors Volleyball Club (SMJVC) strives to provide an opportunity for student-athletes to develop the fundamental individual and team skills of volleyball in a supportive environment from a knowledgeable and experienced coaching staff. SMJVC is committed to operating in a manner that is free from discrimination based on race, creed, gender, sexual orientation, or national origin.

Goals

1. To provide an environment in which student athletes can develop character and sportsmanship alongside individual and team volleyball skills from knowledgeable and experienced coaches who are dedicated to the program's mission and goals.
2. To give participants the information, training and exposure they need to continue their volleyball and educational experiences at the High School and collegiate level.
3. To strengthen existing high school programs by developing the area's Junior Olympic-aged athletes.
4. To promote the quality of instruction by supporting continuing education opportunities for coaches.

Team Selection & Tryouts

1. The Club welcomes anyone who would like to tryout. There will be a minimum of two (2) try-out dates. Extended tryout periods will be determined by the executive director and will be posted during the first try-out periods, as well as being listed on the SMJVC website (www.smjvc.net).
2. Teams will be formed as follows:
 - a. One National Traveling team. This team will consist of those athletes that are 15-18 years old who have the competitive desire to participate in nationally ranked tournaments. This team is specifically for those girls who are committed to continuing their volleyball career in college. The cost of this team will be determined separately from the rest of the club and will be based on tournament decisions.
 - b. One team will be formed in the following age groups: 18, 17, 16, and 15. The decision to add additional teams in this age group will be at the discretion of the Executive Director.
 - c. Several teams will be formed in the following age groups: 14, 13, and 12 & under.
 - d. If there are not enough athletes to form one team within a particular age group, then, athletes from differing age groups will be combined to form a competitive team for the age group in question with the ages of the athletes two or less years from the age group of that team.

- e. The team will not be formed and eligible athletes falling within that age group will compete in the next higher age group. If there are enough athletes to form two or more teams within an age group, teams will be formed based on the skill level of the athletes to make the most competitive teams possible.
3. Teams will consist of a minimum of 8 and no more than 10 athletes. Under special circumstances as determined by the coaching staff and/or Executive Committee, a team may carry up to 12 athletes. If, at any point in the season, a team's official roster is reduced to seven or fewer athletes due to injury or attrition, the coaching staff and/or Executive Committee, with input from the remaining athletes and their parents, have the option to disband that team. If a team is disbanded, a pro-rated refund of fees will be given.
 4. The total number of teams within the Club is based on the number of athletes who try out, the number of available coaches, and the availability of practice facilities in the area.
 5. Athletes will be evaluated on general athletic ability, existing and potential skill level, knowledge, effort, competitiveness, and interaction with coaches and other athletes.
 6. At the end of the try-out period, each athlete will be notified of team decisions by email. Those who are selected for a team or those who choose not to participate will receive a partial refund of the tryout fee, to be processed after the December 1 drop deadline.
 7. SMJVC discourages the moving of athletes to an older age group and will do so only under the following conditions:
 - a. an athlete shows superior skills where playing for her age group would be counterproductive to her advancement.
 - b. There are not enough players to complete a competitive team within an older age group.

The Executive Director, with input from coaches will decide whether to advance an athlete. That decision will be based on the likely benefit to all athletes who would be affected by such a move. If an athlete is advanced during one season, she will not necessarily be advanced the following season. Evaluations for such a move will be done during the tryout period **each** season. The Executive Director reserves the right to make the final decision on any such move.

Registration, Club Fee and Payment Schedule

1. Athletes must present the following before being admitted to tryouts:
 - Tryout Fee of \$300.00 – applied toward the Club Fee (\$50.00 non-refundable)
 - USA Volleyball SRVA Registration Form
 - USA Volleyball Medical History and Release Form
 - Membership Agreement/Grievance Policy Contract – signed
2. The Club Fee includes instruction in skill development, SRVA registration fees, gym and facility rental fees, coaching and administrative salaries, equipment replacement costs, tournament registration fees and coaches' tournament travel costs.

The Club Fee will be due as Follows:

Due at Tryouts: Tryout Fee \$300.00 (applied toward total club fee)
 \$50.00 non-refundable, refunds processed after the December 1 drop deadline.

	15-18 Teams	12-14 Teams	11 and under
December 1	\$300.00	\$300.00	None
January 1	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
February 1	\$300.00	\$100.00	None
March 1	\$300.00	None	None
Total:	\$1500.00	\$1000.00	\$600.00

For 15-18 teams, the Club Fee covers a minimum of 7 tournaments within driving distance including at least one national qualifier and Regionals. For the 12-14 teams, the Club Fee covers a minimum of 5 tournaments within driving distance and Regionals. For the 11 and under teams, the club Fee covers a minimum of 3 tournaments within driving distance. **Any tournaments above these minimums or tournaments that require air transportation will be in addition to the published Fee for teams.**

3. Uniform costs are in addition to the Club Fee. A full uniform package (2 jerseys, spandex, warm-up jacket/pants and travel bag) is available. We encourage each player to have the complete uniform package, however, the purchase of two jerseys is required. Please see the uniform order page in Appendix A. Uniform orders must be accompanied by full payment and are due no later than December 01. There will be no additional orders placed after the due date.
4. Additional travel costs incurred by athletes and their families for their personal transportation and lodging are the responsibility of that athlete/family and are not covered by the Club Fee.

All payments are due on the first of the month. Payment reminders are disseminated via email. Payments must be mailed to the SMJVC business address found on page 3 of this document. Information on payments must include player name and team. **Please do not give money to coaches.** Accounts must be paid in full each season by April 1. Failure to do so will result in that athlete being disqualified from participating in any activities past that date.

5. An athlete with a delinquent account during the current season will not be allowed to participate in practices and/or tournaments until the account is made current or individual arrangements are made with the Director and Business Manager. No athlete will be allowed to participate during the current season if fees from the previous season are unpaid. If an account remains delinquent for 30 days, the athlete is subject to immediate dismissal from the Club and the account will be forwarded to a collections agency.
6. An athlete, coach, or parent damaging equipment owned by SMJVC or any facility used by the Club during the season (at practices or tournaments) will be required to reimburse the Club and/or facility for the damage before continuing in the Club.

Training Sessions

1. **Attendance is mandatory.** Athletes are expected to be at every training session (practice). Every effort should be made to manage homework and schedule outside activities in a way that does not conflict with practices and tournaments. One athlete's absence hurts not only her individual development, but also the development of the entire team. Regardless of the reason, missed practices will influence the amount of playing time that the athlete receives.
2. If an athlete misses more than 10% of the total practices without a good reason as judged by her coach, she may be subject to dismissal from the team without refund.
3. If an athlete cannot be at practice, it is that athlete's responsibility (not the parent's) to contact the coach **before** practice.
4. Athletes are encouraged to bring water or an appropriate sports drink to practices and tournaments. Please, no glass containers. Please review the rules for each practice facility to make sure drinks are allowed in the gym.
5. Parents or a responsible adult should come to pick athletes up after practice (for those athletes who do not drive). Coaches will not leave an athlete alone after practice waiting to be picked up.
6. In the case of inclement weather, coaches will call or email their team members at their preferred contact number to notify them of practice cancellations.
7. Coaches may have additional team rules for practices that their athletes must follow.
8. Training sessions are designed with the athlete in mind. SMJVC's coaches have taken into consideration the need for adequate rest and recovery in avoiding excessive stress to the athlete.

Tournaments

1. Teams will choose their tournament schedule as soon as the teams are formed and the first parent meeting is held. Tournament schedules should be decided by December. It is important for parents and athletes to give input regarding the tournament schedule. Once the schedule has been approved by the parents and coaches, the executive director will make the final decision regarding the number and location of tournaments the team will attend.
2. Athletes are expected to attend every tournament in which her team is scheduled to participate. If an athlete cannot attend a tournament, the athlete and/or the parent is expected to inform the coach as soon as she knows she will be absent. No adjustment in fees paid will result from tournaments not attended.
3. All athletes are expected to be in the gym, **READY TO WARM UP**, at the arrival time determined by the coach.

4. Proper demeanor is expected of all members of the Club (coaches, athletes, parents, supporters) at all tournaments. This includes treating members of the officiating crew, other coaches, and parents with respect during and between matches. Keep in mind that you are representing SMJVC, our sponsors, and our region.
5. Athletes may not leave the tournament site unless excused by the coach.
6. All SMJVC athletes and coaches must attend an officiating clinic to learn the rules of volleyball and how to officiate/scorekeep. Parents are encouraged to attend as well.
7. All Junior Olympic tournaments are at least partially self-officiated. Officiating at tournaments is the shared responsibility of the entire team. All SMJVC athletes are required to help with the line judging, scorekeeping, score flipping, and down officiating. An athlete who has an officiating assignment may not leave the tournament before the assignment is completed. If an athlete leaves the tournament area, before the team's officiating assignment is completed and without being excused by the coach, then there will be a \$50 fine levied against the player. This fine must be paid before the player is allowed to participate in practices or other tournaments.
8. Coaches may have additional team rules for tournaments that their athletes must follow.

Ethics & Conduct

Athlete Responsibilities: Athletes are held to high standards by the coaching and administrative staff of SMJVC. They should remember that they represent their parents, coaches, and Club to the larger community every time they participate in any Club-related activity. No athlete is allowed to use alcohol or other controlled substances, including tobacco products, at any Club-related practice or event. Any athlete involved in any of these activities will be dismissed from the club immediately. SMJVC athletes are expected to:

- Display sportsmanship and respect towards teammates, competitors, parents, coaches, and officials at all times.
- Keep a positive attitude and be supportive of teammates and coaches.
- Be prepared mentally and physically for all practices and competitions.
- Be cooperative, considerate, and act with high moral and social standards while traveling as a program representative
- Be punctual for all scheduled events
- Never use alcohol or controlled substances, including tobacco products
- Learn the rules and develop officiating skills.
- Be willing and ready to serve the team and Club by participating in fund-raising, sports promotion, officiating, and serving on committees.

- Follow all specific team rules laid out by the coach.
- Participate in physical conditioning outside of scheduled practices.
- Take responsibility and be accountable for individual behavior.
- Show initiative

Parent Responsibilities: Appropriate parental support and involvement is vital to the success of a team. Parents may attend practices but may not interfere in any way. Parents may be asked by the coaching or administrative staff to fulfill special tasks or duties. SMJVC parents are expected to:

- Display sportsmanship and respect towards teammates, competitors, parents, coaches, and officials at all times.
- Allow the coaching staff to handle any concerns over an official's ruling.
- Understand and respect the differences between parental roles and coaching roles.
- Focus on their child's development of skills and strategies rather than competitive success. The nature of sports competition creates its own pressure to succeed.
- Believe that the primary value of their child's participation in competitive athletics is the opportunity for self-development.
- Communicate their true concerns with the coach. A positive working relationship is based upon clearly communicated mutual goals among parents, coaches, and athletes.
- Control negative emotions and think positively.

Parent Representatives: A parent representative for each team will be selected at the first team meeting.

Parent Representative Responsibilities include:

- Work with the coach to get tournament list established by the published deadline.
- Work with uniform coordinators to assist in uniform distribution.
- Work with hotel coordinator (for larger tournaments) and on their own to provide the rooming list and confirm arrangements made for overnight stays.
- Coordinate photo shoots for website by published deadline.
- Coordinate food arrangements for appropriate tournaments

- Attend parent board meetings led by parent representative to the Board (Karla McMaster).
- Liaison between coaches and other parents.

Coaches' Responsibilities: Coaches will lead all practices and game activities. Emphasis in practice and competition will be placed on skill development and overall team improvement. SMJVC coaches are expected to:

- Display sportsmanship and respect towards teammates, competitors, parents, coaches, and officials at all times.
- Always put the welfare of the athletes ahead of any personal gain.
- Be punctual for all scheduled events.
- Learn about your athletes and their individual needs.
- Know the rules of the game.
- Make informed playtime and strategy decisions.
- Prepare informative and challenging practices.
- Emphasize performance and process over outcome.
- Be positive and consistent with feedback.
- Communicate with athletes and parents by making sure they are familiar with expectations, procedures, and team rules. Be open to talking with athletes and parents. Be fair, impartial, and ready to listen and respond.
- Protect the safety of athletes. Direct any injury or illness to the appropriate medical authority.
- Be respectful of the facilities used by the Club and maintain Club property responsibly.
- Contribute to and support the decisions of policy, actions, and rules of USA Volleyball, the Southern Region, and SMJVC.
- Be a good role model on and off the court.

Sexual Harassment

SMJVC is committed to providing and maintaining an athletic environment that is free from sexual harassment and/or unwanted sexual attention. To help combat sexual harassment in our activities, we have adopted the Sexual Harassment Policy of the SRVA. Harassment can occur between any members of the volleyball community, including coaches, players, officials, parents, and organizers. It most often occurs when one individual holds a position of real or perceived authority over the other involved individual.

Sexual Harassment may involve:

- Suggestive comments about physical appearance
- Leering or staring
- Use or display of materials with inappropriate sexual content
- Sexual teasing
- Jokes with sexual themes
- Unwanted physical contact
- Promises or rewards in return for sexual favors
- Sexual assault

SMJVC members may not engage in sexual harassment. Unwelcome and unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature such as sexual jokes, gestures, graffiti, posters, writings, or physical contact may constitute sexual harassment when:

- Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for participation or team selection affecting an individual.
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's opportunity to participate in volleyball events or results in creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

Members encountering behavior perceived as harassment should report the allegation directly to the Club Director. If it is felt this approach is not likely to be productive, or if such approach has been tried and failed, the person harassed should make a report to the SRVA Office. The initial notification of accusation(s) and any decisions(s) and/or sanctions imposed may be made orally (either in person or by phone) or by e-mail, but must be followed by written notice sent by regular first class mail. A report of sexual harassment will remain confidential to the extent that maintaining confidentiality does not impede investigation of the report of harassment, eliminating or remedying any sexual harassment found to have occurred, or preventing future harassment.

SMJVC may restrict from sanctioned events any member alleged to have committed sexual harassment, pending an investigation of a sexual harassment report. Any member who engages in sexual harassment, who fails to cooperate in an investigation of sexual harassment charges, or who violates or acts in a manner inconsistent with this policy, may be immediately dismissed as a member of SMJVC.

Playing Time

Playing time must be earned. Equal playing time is never guaranteed on any team or at any event. A

continual source of frustration for players and parents alike is the issue of playing time. The reality is that equal playing time IS NOT guaranteed. It is important for players and parents to understand that the goal of the team is to compete at the highest level at tournaments. This may result in reduced playing time for some members of the team. The following factors influence playing time, in no particular order of importance:

- Attendance at practices
- Volleyball skill and ability as evaluated by the coach
- Effort and attitude in practice and game situations
- Individual position and role on the team
- Adherence to the coach's rules
- Adherence to the Club's rules

Playing time is NOT an issue to be brought to the coach's attention by the parent. If an athlete has questions about her playing time, she may address these with the coach(es) at an agreed upon time apart from practices or tournaments. Lack of playing time does not reduce responsibility of full payment of the Club Fee. The Club Fee covers, in part, instruction in skill development, which is received by the athlete largely during training sessions.

Athletes are not guaranteed to play the same position that they do during their high school volleyball season. Coaches take into consideration many factors in selecting athletes to fill out their rosters, and may feel that the athlete and team would benefit by developing an athlete to play a different role than he or she has previously performed.

Grievances

Knowing when and how to communicate with your athlete's coach is a concern for almost every parent at some time during the season. Most often, the concern is how to inquire about issues surrounding playing time. **SMJVC will not tolerate a hostile or aggressive confrontation between a parent or athlete and any official, coach, other parent, or other athlete, whether or not the coach, other athlete, or other parent is a member of SMJVC.** Violation of this policy may result in the athlete being dismissed from the Club.

It is inappropriate for any athlete or parent to approach other SMJVC members about a problem the athlete or parents have with an SMJVC coach, objections to coaching decisions, or a disagreement with an administrative decision. Asking uninvolved persons to take sides in an issue is unfair to the third party and to the Club. Competitive team athletics, by its very nature, creates situations where not everyone may be happy all the time. For the psychological health of the team and the Club as a whole, grievances need to be handled by only the parties involved and the decision-makers in the situation.

SMJVC encourages any athlete to talk to the coach when she has questions about her playing time or if she is unclear about what the coach's expectations are either in practice or in competition. An

appropriate attitude may be for the athlete to ask the coach what she needs to do in order to get more opportunities to play in matches. This discussion should take place in a private setting, away from tournament play or practices.

The coaches and/or Club Director will not discuss “coaching decisions.” “Coaching decisions” include, among other things, specific match decisions such as who played when, who was subbed out and when, or what position an athlete was played in. The amount of time any athlete is given on the court is a result of a complex determination, in that coach’s opinion, of the athlete’s ability, the athlete’s potential, the athlete’s position, the team’s needs at the moment, and the team’s needs in the future. The coach will **NOT** be required to defend his/her thought processes or conclusions in these determinations, and it is improper for a parent to make that request.

Coaches will not discuss any athlete other than the parent’s own or the actions of any other SMJVC coach. If you, as a parent, have legitimate concerns about your athlete’s coach, a coach other than your athlete’s coach, or with an athlete other than your own, you need to address the Club Director. Please remember that “coaching decisions” are **NOT** a legitimate concern.

With any discipline problems with an athlete, the coach will take the following steps of communication:

- The coach will speak to the athlete.
- If the issue is not resolved, the coach will then speak with the athlete’s parents.
- If the issue is still not resolved, the coach will then speak with the Club administration.

When a parent has a problem that is specific to their own athlete or an athlete has a legitimate concern to raise, the following steps of communication should be taken:

- The athlete should speak with the coach about the matter.
- If the issue is not resolved, the parent should then speak with the coach.
- If the issue is still not resolved, the parent may then speak with the Club Director and request a meeting with the coach and Director.

Meetings are to be at times and locations other than tournaments. **If a parent approaches a coach during a tournament, we have instructed the coach to refuse to discuss any controversial matter and to walk away.** The recommended time for a parent and/or athlete to talk to a coach about a problem is at a previously arranged meeting either before or immediately after a scheduled practice. Repetitive complaining by a parent or athlete to third parties may be cause, in the sole determination of the Cub, to terminate club membership.

Travel

Athletes and/or parents are responsible for providing transportation for their athlete to and from

tournament sites. Carpools are acceptable.

When the team travels together, be on time for departure. All members of a team will stay in the same hotel. The hotel parent representative will book hotel rooms with help from the coach and from the Business Manager. Any parent or athlete that does not stay with the team may do so only with the permission of the coach. Athletes will not leave the hotel without a parent, coach, or chaperone, and must notify the coach. Athletes must use a buddy system at all times. When traveling as a team, room numbers and phone numbers are to be given **ONLY** to members of the travel party. Curfews for the players may be established by the coaches. It is the parent/chaperone's responsibility to assist coaches in enforcing such curfews.

An athlete who damages any property at a lodging or playing facility will be responsible for the damages. Any athlete found in possession of alcohol or other controlled substances, including tobacco products, while representing SMJVC will be sent home immediately at the expense of the parent or guardian.

Insurance Coverage

The SRVA provides team liability protection on an excess coverage basis for members participating in scheduled, supervised, and approved activities. If an athlete sustains an injury in a practice or a tournament, any medical treatment that is needed must be covered by her individual medical insurance.

Injuries/Illness

1. If an athlete sustains an injury or becomes ill during a practice or game, she must tell her coach immediately.
2. A coach will not allow an athlete to practice or compete if there is:
 - a verbal statement from an athlete expressing an injury
 - a physical action shows that they are unable to play
 - a signed note from a parent or doctor
3. Parents will be notified immediately upon any emergency.
4. If an athlete sustains an injury or illness that is so severe that she is unable to participate in practices or tournaments for a period of time, written notification of recovery from a parent or qualified healthcare provider is required before that player may resume participation.

Website

SMJVC maintains a website at <http://www.smjvc.com>. Information is organized as follows:

- **Alumni:** A listing of past players who have gone onto collegiate careers

- **Calendar:** Monthly calendars containing practice schedules, meetings, and important dates
- **Club Information:** Club mission and contact information
- **FAQs:** Frequently asked questions about club volleyball and SMJVC
- **Financial Information:** Club dues and fee structures
- **Gym Directions:** A listing of Knoxville area gyms used by SMJVC for practices and tournaments
- **Links:** Links to SRVA Juniors' Clubs, USAV regions, and other volleyball related websites
- **Members:** A password-protected page containing news, Administrative meeting minutes, Club/coach evaluation forms, and Player Information form
- **Photo Album:** Photos of SMJVC sponsored activities, submitted by coaches, parents, and athletes
- **Policy Handbook:** A printable version of the SMJVC Policy Handbook
- **SMJVC Tournaments:** Information on tournaments hosted by SMJVC
- **Teams:** A listing of all SMJVC team rosters, with links to player profiles
- **Tournament Schedules:** A listing of tournament schedules and results for all SMJVC teams
- **Tryouts:** Information about tryout requirements, dates, and format

Smoky Mountain Juniors Volleyball Club
2008-2009 Membership Agreement and Grievance Policy Contract

Article I. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1.01 Provisions. The classification of members, the amount of dues payable by the members of each class, the suspension and expulsion of members, and all other matters affecting or relating to the members or membership shall be under the sole control of Smoky Mountain Juniors Volleyball Club (hereafter referred to as “the Club”). Dues and any other membership charges may be changed at any time without notice.

Section 1.02 Nondiscrimination. It shall be the policy of the club to accept application for membership from any individual without regard to race, creed, gender, sexual orientation, or national origin.

Article II. DUES AND OTHER CHARGES

Section 2.01 Responsible Party. The parent or guardian who signs this contract as the Responsible Party (hereafter referred to as “Responsible Party”) is liable for any and all dues, fees, and charges for goods and services incurred by the Athlete Member (hereafter referred to as “Athlete”). By signing this contract, the Responsible Party acknowledges and accepts this liability and agrees to be bound by the terms of this Membership Agreement (hereafter referred to as “Agreement”).

Section 2.02 Dues and Fees. The Club shall determine the amount and terms of payment of dues, fees, and/or travel expenses, which shall be payable by the members. The obligation to pay dues or fees is not dependent on the availability of all the Club's facilities and/or tournaments. Failure of the Club to conduct any specific number of practice sessions or participate in any specific number of tournaments for any reason will not reduce or suspend any member's obligation to pay dues or fees. Voluntary termination by a member for any reason shall not reduce or suspend the member's obligation to pay all dues, fees, and other indebtedness incurred as the result of signing this Agreement.

Section 2.03 Late or Returned Item Fees. A ten-dollar (\$10.00) fee will be assessed to the account of any member failing to make payment for dues or any other Club charges by the stated due date of the first of the month during billing cycles. A twenty-five (\$25.00) service fee will be assessed to a member's account for a check returned to the Club for refusal of payment because of insufficient funds, account closed, or other similar circumstances.

Section 2.04 Delinquent Accounts. Members failing to pay the amount due on their account within thirty (30) days of the stated due date will be classified as delinquent and will become liable for the stated amount plus all costs of collection including, but not limited to, attorney fees, and may be subject to immediate termination by the Club without further notice.

Section 2.05 Prepaid Dues and Fees. Prepaid dues and fees are non-refundable, except as otherwise provided in this contract.

Article III. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 3.01 Involuntary Termination. The Club reserves the right to terminate this Agreement at any time. The Club, in its sole discretion, determines whether or if the member(s) has failed to comply with any of the rules and regulations adopted by the Club, or for conduct the Club determines to be improper or contrary to the fundamental purposes of the Club or detrimental to the best interests of the Club. A terminated member will remain liable for all dues and other indebtedness incurred as a result of signing this Agreement.

Section 3.02 Voluntary Termination. Voluntary termination of a membership by a member shall not reduce or suspend the member's obligation to pay all dues and other indebtedness incurred as a result of signing this Agreement.

Article IV. WAIVER OF LIABILITY

Section 4.01 Waiver of Claims. Members expressly agree that use of Club facilities and/or participation in Club sponsored activities and events shall be undertaken by members at their sole risk. The club shall not be liable for any injuries or any damages to any member, or be subject to any claim, demand, injury or damages whatsoever arising out of such use, activities, and events. The Club shall not be responsible or liable to members for articles of personal property damaged, lost, or stolen in or about the club facilities or during any club activities or events. The Club shall not be responsible or liable to members for loss or damages to any member's property including, but not limited to, automobiles and the contents thereof.

Article V. RULES AND REGULATIONS

Section 5.01 Non-Comprehensive. The rules and regulations included in this Agreement are NOT comprehensive. Amendments to the Club rules and regulations may be made from time to time as necessary. On all questions regarding the interpretation of and application of Club rules and regulations, the decision of the Club Director shall be final.

Article VI. CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

Section 6.01 Rights to Cancellation. The Responsible Party has the right to cancel this contract without penalty or further obligation to the Club within two (2) days after distribution of the Agreement, or by December 1, 2008, whichever date is later, by notifying the Club in writing (email notification is acceptable) of sure intent and by mailing the notice with return receipt requested to the Club before twelve midnight on the third day after signing. The notice must state clearly that the Athlete does not wish to continue membership in the club and must be accompanied by the contract form and all club uniforms and equipment issued to the member. Upon receipt of such cancellation notice, the Club may retain that portion of dues or collect that portion of dues incurred by the member that is equal to the proportionate value of the services, use of facilities, equipment, and registration fees the member has already received from the Club.

Section 6.02 Cancellation due to Club Closure. The Responsible Party may cancel this contract if the Club goes out of business by mailing written notice of such cancellation with return receipt requested to the Club. Upon receipt of such cancellation notice, the Club may retain that portion of dues or collect that portion of dues incurred by the member that is equal to the proportionate value of the services, use of facilities, equipment, and registration fees the member has already received from the Club.

Section 6.03 Cancellation due to Injury or Disability. The Responsible Party may cancel this contract if the Athlete becomes disabled, is so severely injured that she/he cannot practice or compete for more than three (3) months, or the Athlete's estate cancels the Agreement in the event of the Athlete's death. Such notice must be in writing and mailed to the club with return receipt requested. Upon receipt of such cancellation notice, the Club may retain that portion of the dues or collect that portion of the indebtedness incurred by the member that is equal to the proportionate value of the services, use of facilities, equipment, and registration fees the member has already received from the Club. The Athlete must provide proof of disability by furnishing the club with a written statement from a doctor certifying the disability. In such a case, the Athlete will be admitted back to practice only with a written release from the doctor stating the Athlete's ability to participate fully in Club activities.

Grievance Policy Contract

Knowing when and how to communicate with your athlete's coach is a concern for almost every parent at some time during the season. Most often the concern is how to inquire about issues surrounding playing time.

SMJVC will not tolerate a hostile or aggressive confrontation between a parent or athlete and any official, coach, other parent, or other athlete, whether or not the coach, other athlete, or other parent is a member of SMJVC. Violation of this policy may result in the athlete being dismissed from the Club.

It is inappropriate for any athlete or parent to approach other SMJVC members about a problem the athlete or parents have with an SMJVC coach, objections to coaching decisions, or a disagreement with an administrative decision. Asking uninvolved persons to take sides in an issue is unfair to the third party and to the Club. Competitive team athletics, by its very nature, creates situations where everyone may not be happy all the time. For the psychological health of the team and the Club as a whole, grievances need to be handled by only the parties involved and the decision-makers in the situation.

SMJVC encourages any athlete to talk to the coach when she has questions about her playing time or if she is unclear about what the coach's expectations are either in practice or in competition. An appropriate attitude is for the athlete to ask the coach what she needs to do in order to get more opportunities to play in matches. This discussion should take place in a private setting, away from tournament play or practices.

The coaches and/or Club Director will not discuss "coaching decisions." "Coaching decisions" include, among other things, specific match decisions such as who played when, who was subbed out and when, or in what position an athlete was played. The amount of time any athlete is given on the court is a result of a complex determination, in that coach's opinion, of the athlete's ability, the athlete's

potential, the athlete's position, the team's needs at the moment, and the team's needs in the future. The coach will **NOT** be required to defend his/her thought processes or conclusions in these determinations, and it is improper for a parent to make that request.

Coaches will not discuss any athlete other than the parent's own or the actions of any other SMJVC coach. If you, as a parent, have legitimate concerns about your athlete's coach, a coach other than your athlete's coach, or with an athlete other than your own, you need to address the Club Director. Please remember that "coaching decisions" are **NOT** a legitimate concern.

With any discipline problems with an athlete, the coach will take the following steps of communication:

- The coach will speak to the athlete.
- If the issue is not resolved, the coach will then speak with the athlete's parents.
- If the issue is still not resolved, the coach will then speak with the Club administration.

When a parent has a problem that is specific to their own athlete or an athlete has a legitimate concern to raise, the following steps of communication should be taken:

- The athlete should speak with the coach about the matter.
- If the issue is not resolved, the parent should then speak with the coach.
- If the issue is still not resolved, the parent may then speak with the Club Director and request a meeting with the coach and Director. Meetings are to be at times and locations other than tournaments.

If a parent approaches a coach during a tournament, we have instructed the coach to refuse to discuss any controversial matter and to walk away. The recommended time for a parent and/or athlete to talk to a coach about a problem is at a previously arranged meeting either before or immediately after a scheduled practice.

Repetitive complaining by a parent or athlete to third parties may be cause, in the sole determination of the Club, to terminate club membership.

Appendix A

- * SRVA Age Definitions (for information only)
- * Code of Conduct (for information only)
- * Affidavit for Reduced Fee (optional)
- *Uniform Order Form (due with payment by December 01)

USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR OLYMPIC AGE DEFINITIONS For use during the 2008-2009 Season

For eligibility purposes, a player who has just completed a grade in the Spring of 2008 will be considered in that grade just completed. Players need not be currently enrolled in high school except as noted below. Once a player participates in a club or varsity program for any university, college, community college, or junior college, he/she is ineligible to play in any regional or national JOVC qualifying and championship events.

18 and under division: Players who were born on or after September 1, 1990 or players who were born on or after September 1, 1989 and a high school student during some part of the current academic year.

17 and under division: Players who were born on or after September 1, 1991.

16 and under division: Players who were born on or after September 1, 1992.

15 and under division: Players who were born on or after September 1, 1993.

14 and under division: Players who were born on or after September 1, 1994.

13 and under division: Players who were born on or after September 1, 1995.

12 and under division: Players who were born on or after September 1, 1996.

Appendix B

**This section contains the following three forms that are required.
Please complete this section carefully and according to directions.
Please bring all forms with you to tryouts along with the \$300.00 tryout fee:**

- * Player/Parent Information Form with Membership Agreement/Grievance Policy
Contract Signature Page on reverse side
- * USA Volleyball SRVA Registration Form
- * USA Volleyball Medical History and Release Form

Smoky Mountain Juniors Volleyball Club Player/Parent Information Form

Player Information

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Home Phone #1: _____ Home Phone #2: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Which of the above is the primary number to reach you? (circle one) HP#1 HP#2 Cell

Email: **(PRINT CAREFULLY!)** _____

Date of Birth: _____ Grade: _____

School: _____

School Academic Honors: _____

School Athletic Honors: _____

Have you ever played volleyball? (circle one) Yes No

If yes, where and how long? _____

Parent/Responsible Person Information

Name: _____ Relationship to player: _____

Street Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Which of the above is the primary number to reach you? (circle one) Home Work Cell

Email: **(PRINT CAREFULLY!)** _____

This page left blank intentionally.

Smoky Mountain Juniors Volleyball Club
2008-2009 Membership Agreement/Grievance Policy Contract
Signature Page

By my signature below, I certify to have read, understand and will abide by the policies stated in the Membership Agreement and the Grievance Policy Contract. I confirm that I am the responsible party for the athlete listed below.

I further understand the fee schedule as listed below and that I am responsible for completing those financial obligations under SMJVC policy. I also understand that uniform costs and personal travel expenses are in addition to the Club Fee.

Due at Tryouts: Tryout Fee \$300.00 (applied toward total club fee)
 \$50.00 non-refundable, refunds processed after the December 1 drop deadline.

	15-18 Teams	12-14 Teams	11 and under
December 1	\$300.00	\$300.00	None
January 1	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
February 1	\$300.00	\$100.00	None
March 1	\$300.00	None	None
Total:	\$1500.00	\$1000.00	\$600.00

 Parent/Guardian _____ Date

 Athlete _____ Date

 Club Director _____ Date
 (or designee)

This agreement page must be signed and returned at the conclusion of the parent meeting.

Please complete, detach and return with the \$300.00 tryout fee:

- * **Player/Parent Information Form and Signature Page, signed by parent AND athlete.**
- * **SRVA Registration Form (USA Volleyball), signed by parent AND athlete.**
- * **Medical History and Release Form**

Thank you and Welcome to SMJVC!!!!!!