



AZ Wild Volleyball Club
Player, Parent, and Coach Handbook

Southern Arizona's Premier Club

Established in 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission Statement.....	Page 3
Commitment.....	Page 3
Practices & Tournaments.....	Page 3
Club Philosophy by Age Group.....	Page 3
Injury & Illness Protocol.....	Page 4
Social Media Conduct Policy.....	Page 4
Player, Parent & Coach Agreement.....	Page 5
Training and Tournament Playing Time.....	Page 6
Parents and the Game.....	Page 7
Tournament Behavior.....	Page 7
General Concerns (Non-coaching Issues).....	Page 8
Amendments, Membership Fees, and Use of Image.....	Page 8
Travel Policy.....	Page 9
Code of Conduct and Honor Code.....	Page 10
Compliance & Agreement Acknowledgment.....	Page 11
Inclusion & Gender Identity Policy.....	Page 11

Mission Statement

AZ Wild is committed to developing confident, highly skilled volleyball players in Southern Arizona. We provide a top-tier club experience through competitive practice environments, regional and national tournaments, pathways for play beyond high school, and a knowledgeable, passionate coaching staff.

We emphasize personal growth both as athletes and individuals while educating players and parents about the sport and the responsibilities of club-level participation.

Commitment

Playing for AZ Wild requires commitment from both athletes and their families. We expect:

- Consistent attendance at all practices and tournaments
 - Communication with coaches in advance regarding any absences
 - Full engagement, effort, and teamwork during all activities
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Practices & Tournaments

- Practices typically begin in early December and end by mid-June, depending on tournament scheduling.
 - Teams practice 3 times per week during non-tournament weeks and 2 times per week during tournament weeks.
 - Practices are a minimum of 90 minutes.
 - Practice times and facilities may vary based on availability. Schedules will be posted monthly on the AZ Wild website
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Club Philosophy by Age Group

Minis (8–12 years):

- Focus on fundamentals (serving, setting, passing, attacking)
- Introduce movement, footwork, communication, and teamwork
- Conducted as a clinic, no formal tournaments

12U–14U:

- Build on fundamentals
- Introduce offensive/defensive systems
- Prepare for middle and high school-level competition

15U–16U:

- Refine core skills and introduce advanced strategies
- Emphasize reading opponents and team-based systems

17U–18U:

- Mastery and minor refinements of core skills
 - Advanced offensive/defensive strategies, team adjustments
 - Prepares players for college-level volleyball
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Injury & Illness Protocol

- Report all injuries to your coach immediately
 - Adhere to all health and safety protocols issued by AZ Wild or tournament sponsors
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Social Media Conduct Policy

All athletes, coaches, and staff are expected to represent the club in a respectful and responsible manner at all times, including on social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, Snapchat, and others.

Inappropriate Content: Posting, sharing, or engaging with any of the following is strictly prohibited:

- Profanity or vulgar language
- Sexually explicit or suggestive material
- Bullying, harassment, or threats
- Discriminatory or hateful remarks
- Negative comments about teammates, coaches, referees, or opponents
- Content promoting alcohol, drugs, or illegal activity
- Any posts that harm the reputation of AZ Wild

Consequences: Violations may result in:

- Warnings (verbal or written)
- Meetings with coaching staff or director
- Suspension from practices or events
- Removal from leadership roles
- Dismissal from the team or club

Digital Safety Reminder:

- Social media is public. Think before posting.
- Use privacy settings when appropriate
- Avoid sharing personal or location info
- Report inappropriate messages or threats to a trusted adult

Parent & Athlete Responsibilities:

- Athletes must uphold AZ Wild's standards online and in person.
 - Parents should monitor their child's social media presence and support the club's guidelines.
 - By signing the Contract for Services and Financial Agreement, both players and guardians acknowledge and accept these expectations.
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Player/Parent/Coach Agreement:

General Expectations: All players, parents, volunteers, and coaches are expected to:

- Read the entire AZ Wild Volleyball Handbook
- Review and sign the USAV Code of Conduct (via SportsEngine)
- Abide by all club policies and standards of conduct
- Attendance at an Open House is strongly encouraged for both players and parents. If unable to attend, contact the Club Director or Assistant Director for updates and key information.

Practice Sessions:

- Monthly practice schedules will be posted on www.azwildvolleyball.com
- Players must attend all practices and arrive 15 minutes early, fully dressed and ready to go
- When possible, players should assist with set-up/take-down of volleyball equipment
- Missed practices must be made up with another team's session (if approved)
- Notify coaches 48 hours in advance for excused absences (illness, death in family, school/religious events)
- Misses for homework or tests are considered unexcused but are understood. Please plan your time for studying and practice accordingly. If practice must be missed, athletes should attend a make-up practice and must discuss this with coaches.

Tournaments:

- Tournament schedules will be announced at Open House and on the website.
- Once a player commits to a tournament, attendance is expected.
- Unexpected absences due to illness or family emergency must be reported to the coach as soon as possible.
- Parents are responsible for transportation to/from tournaments.
- Players must clean up their area at tournament sites to avoid fines imposed by site directors.
- Start times may be posted as late as the day before; stay alert to updates.
- Team camps may not be allowed at all venues. Respect site-specific rules.

Commitment Includes:

- Your parents (time and financial support)
- Yourself (effort and personal development)
- AZ Wild Volleyball Club (team and financial commitment)
- Your coach and your teammates
- Once registered with AZ Wild, transfers to other clubs require a written release from AZ Wild and approval by the AZ Region.

Team Placement:

- Based on skill, attitude, positional needs, and tryout performance
 - Team placement is not based on membership fees
 - Players may be moved at the club's discretion to ensure team balance and development
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Training and Tournament Playing Time:**Playing Time Expectations:**

- Coaches will make a strong effort to provide meaningful playing time during tournament pool play
- During bracket play or playoffs, the most competitive lineup will be used based on team strategy and performance
- Playing time is earned through attendance, effort, skill, attitude, and commitment. Playing time is **NOT** guaranteed, is **NOT** equal, and is **NOT** tied to contract fees.

Disputes or Concerns:

- Parents and Coaches **MUST** observe a 24-hour "cool-down" period after the conclusion of a tournament before addressing playing time or coaching concerns
- Concerns must be brought to the coach first, respectfully and privately
- If unresolved, concerns may be escalated to the Club Director, who may call a joint meeting with all parties

Code of Conduct Reminder:

- Players and parents must show respect to coaches, officials, teammates, and other teams at all times.
- Violations of the Code of Conduct or disrespectful behavior may result in removal from the tournament or club without refund.
- We expect our athletes to uphold the integrity and reputation of AZ Wild on and off the court.

Parents and the Game: AZ Wild encourages a strong partnership between families and coaches, built on mutual respect and shared purpose. Here's how parents can best support the team:

- Cheer with enthusiasm, positivity, and sportsmanship
- Please refrain from criticizing players, coaches, referees, or other spectators.
- Let the coaches coach. **DO NOT** give instructions to athletes during games
- Avoid emotional outbursts, inappropriate gestures, or drawing attention away from the athletes
- Respect officials' decisions, even when you disagree. Model composure.
- Observe the 24-hour cool-down period following the conclusion of a tournament before initiating serious discussions with coaches

REMEMBER: Your conduct reflects on your athlete, the team, and AZ Wild as a whole. Be a role model of sportsmanship and composure in every environment.

Tournament Behavior: Tournaments are a chance to showcase our training, growth, and club values. All players, families, and coaches are expected to uphold high standards. Any behavior that damages the reputation of AZ Wild or jeopardizes team integrity may result in disciplinary action, including removal from events or the club. Let's compete with pride and class, and represent AZ Wild the correct way both on and off the court.

Players must:

- Display proper manners and respect toward all tournament staff, opponents, and spectators
- Be on time, dressed appropriately, and ready to compete
- Know the team's schedule and uniform requirements
- Stay in communication with coaches and chaperones
- Remain under adult supervision at all times
- Not leave the venue without explicit permission from their coach

For overnight tournaments:

- Prioritize rest and proper nutrition
- Follow curfews and hotel behavior expectations
- Stay in designated hotel rooms unless directed otherwise by staff
- Always be accompanied by a coach or chaperone when leaving the hotel or venue

General Concerns (Non-Coaching Issues): AZ Wild believes in clear, respectful communication. We ask that issues not be discussed during practices, tournaments, or in front of players. Calm, private conversations are far more productive. When an issue arises:

- **Players** should first speak directly with their coach about any concerns.
- **Parents** should encourage their athlete to speak up respectfully when appropriate.
- If the issue involves a coach's behavior or cannot be resolved at the team level, contact the **Club Director**.
- Administrative concerns should be brought directly to the Club Director.

Amendments, Membership Fees, and Use of Image

Amendments: The AZ Wild administration reserves the right to make handbook updates and policy decisions as needed. All decisions will be made in the best interest of the players, club, and families.

Membership Fees:

- Commitment fee due at team acceptance
- Monthly payments are due on the 5th of each month, December through May or June (if tournaments extend into June).
- Full season total and discounts for early payment to be determined by the club each year
- No refunds once a player accepts an offer and joins a team
- Returned checks will incur a \$40 fee
- Players with unpaid balances may not participate in practices or tournaments

Tuition Fees Cover:

- Practice facilities
- Uniforms and equipment
- Coaching staff
- Tournament entry fees
- Administrative and operational costs
- Membership fees **DO NOT** guarantee equal playing time.
- Families are responsible for their own travel, lodging, meals, spirit wear, and gear beyond what's provided by the club.

Use of Player Image, Name & Likeness: By participating in AZ Wild, players and families grant permission to AZ Wild, AZ Region, and USA Volleyball to use photos, video, names, and likenesses for:

- Club promotion (website, brochures, media)
- News and event coverage
- Sport and tournament promotion

- No commercial endorsement will be made without written consent.
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Travel Policy: AZ Wild teams may participate in local, regional, or national tournaments that require travel. The club is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and fun experience for all athletes. This policy outlines expectations for both **local (within the state of Arizona) travel** and **overnight travel**. Violation of any travel policy may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or removal from the team or event.

Local Travel (within the state of Arizona):

- Defined as travel to practices or events that do not require overnight stays.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for arranging all local transportation.
- Club staff and coaches will not transport unrelated minor players alone.

Team Travel (Overnight Trips): When AZ Wild organizes or sponsors travel, the following policies apply:

- Advance notice will be provided for all team travel.
- Suggested team hotel(s) and a contact person will be shared in advance.
- Coaches and chaperones will never share hotel rooms with unrelated minor players.
- Athletes **MUST** follow curfews and remain in their assigned rooms unless instructed otherwise.
- Individual meetings between coaches and athletes must take place in public or with other adults present.
- No coach or chaperone may consume alcohol or use drugs while supervising athletes.
- Parents may always choose to transport their child independently.

Hotel Behavior & Supervision:

- Players are expected to be respectful of hotel property and guests.
- No excessive noise, damage, or inappropriate behavior will be tolerated.
- Players must be accompanied when leaving the venue or hotel.
- Coaches/chaperones will perform curfew checks and regular supervision.

Player Expectations During Travel:

- Remain with the team at all times unless given express permission to leave.
- No leaving the venue or hotel without coach/chaperone approval.
- Dress appropriately and follow team guidelines at all times.
- In public spaces (restaurants, malls, etc.), travel in groups of 3 or more.
- 12U athletes must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Safety & Conduct:

- Seatbelts must be worn in all vehicles.
- Inappropriate behavior, language, or use of electronics will not be tolerated.

- No room service, pay-per-view, or incidental charges without approval.
- Players are responsible for any hotel damages they cause.
- Chaperones will monitor player well-being, behavior, and rest.

Financial Responsibilities:

- Families are responsible for meals, hotel rooms, and travel costs unless otherwise arranged.
- Players must participate in team meals when applicable.
- Clear communication will be provided for reimbursement procedures if applicable.

Parent Responsibilities:

- Parents are responsible for getting players to the designated departure point.
- In "team travel" tournaments, families may be required to stay at the team hotel.

Code of Conduct and Honor Code: AZ Wild expects all athletes and staff to uphold the highest standards of integrity, respect, and sportsmanship. By participating in our club, each individual agrees to the following:

Players and Staff Will:

- Show respect to coaches, teammates, officials, parents, opponents, and the public at all times
- Demonstrate positive sportsmanship and leadership on and off the court
- Refrain from inappropriate language, gestures, or physical contact
- Abide by all club rules, tournament guidelines, and USA Volleyball regulations

Prohibited Conduct Includes:

- Possession or use of alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, or vaping products
- Possession, use, or distribution of controlled substances or weapons
- Any illegal activity or behavior that reflects poorly on AZ Wild

During Team Events, Tournaments, and Travel:

- Players represent themselves and AZ Wild. Conduct must reflect club values.
- Players must follow all supervision, curfew, and travel policies.
- Misbehavior may result in removal from the team, trip, or future competitions.

Disciplinary Actions May Include:

- Immediate dismissal from the event or trip (at athlete's expense)
- Disqualification from future tournaments
- Financial penalties for damages or misconduct
- Permanent dismissal from the club
- Referral to USA Volleyball for further sanctions

Participation in AZ Wild Volleyball is a privilege. We expect athletes to carry themselves with dignity and respect in all environments which include, but not limited to, online, on the court, and in the community.

Compliance & Agreement Acknowledgment: Participation in AZ Wild Volleyball Club requires full compliance with the following:

- AZ Wild Player/Parent/Coach Handbook
- USAV Code of Conduct and registration forms
- Financial agreements and deadlines

Failure to comply may result in:

- Immediate dismissal from the club
- Forfeiture of all fees paid (no refunds issued)
- Referral to AZ Region for unresolved financial obligations
- Legal or collection action for unpaid balances (plus any fees incurred)

All players, parents, volunteers, coaches, and directors must acknowledge that they have read and understand the contents of this handbook and agree to uphold the policies and expectations outlined herein.

Health & Safety Policy: AZ Wild Volleyball Club follows CDC and local health authority guidelines to maintain the safety of athletes, staff, and families.

COVID-19 and Other Communicable Illness Protocols:

- Athletes must stay home if they are sick or have been exposed to a contagious illness
- Follow any testing, isolation, or return-to-play requirements communicated by the club
- Players may be asked to wear masks or adhere to distancing requirements if mandated by a venue, governing body, or health official

These guidelines are subject to change based on evolving health recommendations.

Inclusion & Gender Identity Policy: AZ Wild Volleyball Club supports a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all athletes, including LBGTQ+ athletes. We follow the guidelines set forth by **USA Volleyball (USAV)** and the **Arizona Region of USA Volleyball** regarding gender identity and participation. Our policy includes:

- Respect for an athlete's affirmed gender identity in accordance with USAV eligibility guidelines.
- Participation in practices and competitions based on gender as recognized by USAV.
- Confidentiality and privacy regarding any athlete's gender identity.

- A zero-tolerance policy for discrimination, bullying, or harassment based on gender identity or expression.

In accordance with a federal executive order and requirements from the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee, USA Volleyball is implementing an updated Gender Competition Policy, effective immediately. This policy requires athletes to compete in the gender that matches the sex assigned at birth, as listed on their birth certificate.

We understand this update may affect members of our community. While we are following a federal mandate, our commitment to inclusion, safety, and dignity for every athlete remains unwavering. Discrimination or harassment or exclusion of any kind has no place in our sport. AZ Wild is committed to fostering an environment where all athletes can compete with dignity, fairness, and support.

End of Handbook