

Parent/Player Initials:

M2 Volleyball Club Code of Conduct

Player Name:

Parent Name:

Age Group:

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Version: July 5, 2024

Part 1: M2 Philosophy

At M2 Volleyball, **your player** is our main job, our focus, and our passion. Our dynamic club directors and coaches Mauricio and Manuella bring together the psychological and scientific aspects of player development starting with our youngest players. Their passion for teaching and all-around athlete development is strong, and it is combined with the competitive advantage of their world-class coaching and playing skills.

M2 Volleyball is a family, and our goal is to see our young players grow and develop into confident and competitive athletes, ready to set an example for the next generation.

Our principles are based on a continuous lifecycle: **We Develop. We Compete. We Win. We Advance.** We select our coaches based on their adherence to this philosophy as well as their ability to deliver caring, compassionate, whole player development.

But most importantly, we have fun because we get better together and we win together.

At M2, all parents and players are expected to adhere to this code of conduct. In this document, we have spelled out specific actions and consequences that cover most situations.

The most important thing to keep in mind, however, is that at M2, we expect EVERYONE, including players, parents, and coaches, to treat each other with respect.

Any instance of bullying (verbal or physical), physical assault, or illegal activity -- including alcohol, drugs, tobacco at the club or any club event, as well as theft or destruction of property -- will not be tolerated and will be dealt with immediately. Depending on the severity of the infraction, this could be a verbal warning, suspension, or dismissal from the team.

Part 2: Parent Expectations

Parent Dos and Don'ts

DO get involved and engaged in your daughter's volleyball life:

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1. Club Travel: At M2, players participating in out-of-town tournaments travel with and stay with their families. We feel that tournaments are a great opportunity for families to spend time together and create lasting memories, so we encourage you to participate in these events.
2. Team Organization: Parents have an important role to play in team organization, including
 - a. **Team Parent:** responsible for overall communications with the team, forwarding information from the club, keeping parents and players up to date with tournament logistics, game times, etc.
 - b. **Food Coordinator:** coordinates meals for teams when traveling or at tournaments, including organizing a team dinners, bringing in breakfast or lunch for all day tournaments, etc.
 - c. **Photography/Video Coordinator:** likes to take pictures at tournaments and special events and share them with the club. May also coordinate video capture for recruiting and for live streaming at specific tournaments.
3. Being a positive voice and champion for your child and their team. This includes supporting them in their volleyball careers, helping them advocate *for themselves* with coaches and teammates, and providing positive feedback on their efforts. (see Tournament Behavior section)

DO take advantage of the volleyball expertise the club provides, especially our experience in coaching, skills development and teaching game play, as well as help in navigating the volleyball ecosystem.

DO let the club do our job in making decisions about: what tournaments to play, what divisions to play, tournament housing, coaching styles, team formation, and playing time for individual players.

DO follow club guidelines for addressing concerns (see Escalation/Grievance Procedure later in this document)

NOTE: If you have suggestions or concerns you feel should be addressed right away, please email the club directly. If you are at a tournament and have a concern that you feel immediately impacts player or family safety or well-being, please contact either the club director or coach on site.

DO NOT get involved inappropriately with club operations by:

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1. Making changes to travel arrangements (e.g., hotels) that were organized by the club: This is primarily applicable for Stay and Play tournaments where teams are required to stay in tournament designated accommodations. (see Travel section)
2. Getting involved in any way with the district or tournament organizers regarding tournament plans: This includes requesting division changes, questioning availability, results issues, or any other communication, unless specifically asked to do so by the Club Directors or Club Manager.
3. Any other attempts to circumvent established club processes, including engaging vendors or tools on behalf of a specific team (e.g., recruiting, Hudl, uniform providers) without the express consent of the club.

DO follow the USAV Spectator Code of Conduct (found in the Appendix) with regards to spectator behavior at events. While USAV specifies this is in force for any USAV sanctioned events, M2 considers this to be in force for all tournaments where our teams participate, regardless of sanctioning body.

In addition to the USAV spectator guidelines, M2 expects the following from all parents, guardians, and any other person who attends an event or practice on the behalf of a player:

- Parents should cheer for their kids and team. Please refrain from **using inappropriate or demeaning language at all times**. We expect parents to always model proper behavior.
- Cheer your player on, be supportive of her, console her, but do it without judging her, the coach, officials, or teammates.
- Many things will aggravate you that do not even faze your player. Do not make something into an issue if it is not an issue.
- Encourage your child to seek her own answers. Coaches respect players who come to them and privately question their playing time or role; it immediately indicates they want more.
- If you have real concerns, and your daughter has attempted unsuccessfully to work things out with the coach on her own, schedule a meeting with the coach and have your child attend with you (you may not be hearing the whole story - a common occurrence). If you are trying to resolve a problem, help your daughter by being a role model in the problem-solving procedure.
- Please think before criticizing anyone connected with your daughter's club or team. Criticism is contagious and often hurtful. The damage could be irreversible.
- Never approach a coach with complaints after a tough game. Wait and schedule a visit after everyone cools off. Most coaches are highly competitive, and just like players, do not like being confronted after tough game.

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- Understand the rules of the game and the coach's philosophy. Substituting in volleyball has consequences.
- Leave the Coaching for the Coaches. **During games, it is never appropriate to interact with your child in any way that distracts their attention from the game or their coach.**

Any gossip, remarks made out loud by parents about other players or coaches, or any other negative actions during tournaments will be dealt with quickly, especially if it impacts the teams performance during that tournament. Leave coaching decisions to the coaches, and refrain from criticizing any player, even your own daughter, in public or where other players or parents can hear.

Parent Consequences

Parents who violate these rules may be subject to penalty, depending on the severity of the issue.

1st Offence: Written warning

2nd Offence: Parent requested to not be on the sidelines at the next club tournament.

3rd Offence: Parent asked not to return to any further tournaments for the year.

In certain situations, especially in cases of behavior that threatens the health or wellbeing of others, (e.g., drug or alcohol use at a club event/tournament, fighting, threatening another parent or player) or if the same behavior is repeated over and over, the family may be asked to leave the club, without relief from any financial obligations to the club, and with no refund of monies already paid. While it is never the intent or desire to punish a player for their parent's actions, the experience of the rest of the team is our primary concern.

Part 3: Player Expectations

General

- No jewelry in practice or at games.
- Athlete's hair is to be pulled back out of face.
- Athletes are subject to a bag search at any time.
- Athlete is expected to work hard in every task asked and give their very best effort.
- ***Athlete is to display a positive and respectful attitude toward teammates, coaches, officials and opponents at all times.***

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Cell Phone Usage

Players should refrain from cell phone use during the following times:

- At any time during practice. Once players enter the facility for practice, phones should be put in their bags for the remainder of the practice. Once the coach has dismissed the team, they can use their phones again.
- At tournaments, at any time during their games, and at any time their team has a work assignment. If the player is not actively working, they are expected to remain at the court with their team until their teammates have completed their work assignments. We prefer that during this time, the player's phones remain in their bags. Coaches may independently designate cell phone restrictions if the situation warrants.
- Players who continue to use their phones during tournaments when not allowed will be asked to give their phones to their parents for the remainder of the day.

Practices

- **Attendance at practices is MANDATORY.**
- **M2 Practice Gear are required at all practices** - Once uniforms have been distributed.
 - **Shirts:** If a player arrives without an M2 shirt, they will be given the option to purchase a new shirt, have their parents bring a shirt, or they will be asked to sit out practice. *On the first offense, players will be able to borrow a shirt for that practice.*
 - **Shorts:** Players are encouraged to wear M2 shorts, but plain black spandex is also acceptable. If a player arrives with shorts from another club, the first offense they will receive a warning, and for the second offense they will be asked to sit out practice.
 - Athletes are not to wear any gear from another club during practice or tournaments - shorts, backpacks, sweatshirts, etc. This does not apply to school team wear.
- Athlete must be on time for practice, which means being on the court, ready to start, at the designated practice time.
- Athletes must help maintain the cleanliness of the facility (pick up water bottles, ensure restrooms and common areas are left clean, etc...)
- Appropriate care must be taken of all equipment, recreation facilities and property. Athletes will be held responsible for any damage or loss through their negligence, at replacement cost. *This includes team balls assigned to them for tournaments.*

Consequences

If coaching staff determines that the athlete is not working hard, giving her best effort and/or showing a positive attitude towards the team and coaches, the athlete will be penalized in one of the ways described below depending on the severity of the situation:

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1st Offense - Athlete will be asked to perform alternative exercise as appropriate (burpees, push-ups, jumping jacks, laps, etc.) while team trains

2nd Offense - Athlete will be asked to sit down and watch the remaining of the practice without participation. Athlete is not allowed to leave practices without the approval from the head coach.

3rd Offense – Athlete will be penalized with reduced or no playing time for a part of the next tournament. This does NOT excuse athlete from attendance at the tournament.

Part 4: Tournaments

Tournament participation is mandatory. We practice as a team and when an athlete misses it affects the whole team. Tournaments give our athletes the chance to compete at higher levels, develop their court skills, and strengthen their knowledge of the game. They also expose our athletes to college recruiters. If an athlete misses a tournament and her absence is unexcused, she will be suspended from the next tournament.

Players are expected to complete the entire season with their team. Unfortunately we have seen situations where parents or players decide to skip tournaments for various reasons (vacations, spring break, etc.) These are not excused absences. Players that leave a team before AAUs or Nationals create a hardship for their team and the club. **DO NOT accept a position on a National or Elite team if you are not able to complete the season with your team.**

Tournament Expectations

Any time a player or parent participates in a tournament, they are representing the club. This is also true outside of tournament functions when wearing an M2 uniform or outerwear. Players are expected to abide by the code of conduct whenever they are representing the club.

- Athletes should properly represent M2 coaches, parents, and teammates at all times.
- Athletes should wear M2 outerwear and carry team issued backpacks at all tournament functions.
- Athletes are not to wear any outerwear or other apparel from any other club.
- Athletes are not permitted to leave early from a tournament to avoid refereeing duties.
- NOTE: On the final day of a tournament, we always hope to be playing until the last match. It is incumbent on the parents to book flights late enough in the afternoon to accommodate this. Players who leave a tournament early because of flights will be penalized.
- Athletes are allowed to leave the tournament after all team duties are complete.
- While not working, players should be aware of the other spectators, and give their seats to spectators for the playing teams if necessary.

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- **Athletes must arrive at the tournament site at the time scheduled by the coach.**
- **Athletes must attend all practices the week prior to the tournament unless excused by the coach. (*informing the coach does not equal being excused*).**
- Athletes are responsible for any club owned equipment assigned to them for a tournament (such as balls and ball carts) and will be held responsible for the replacement costs for lost items.
- All all times while participating in a USAV, AAU, or JVA sanctioned tournament, players are also bound by the USAV Honor Code which can be found in the appendix.

Tournament Consequences

Failure to comply with the USAV Honor Code or club tournament rules as set forth in this document may result in disciplinary action. Such discipline may include, but may not be limited to:

- Reduction or elimination of playing time for the remainder of the tournament;
- Dismissal from the trip and immediate return home at the athlete's expense;
- Disqualification from future tournaments, either local or traveling;
- Financial penalties;
- Dismissal from team;
- and/or Penalties set forth in the USA Volleyball Participant Code of Conduct, which may include a lifetime ban.

Playing time

The team's head coach is responsible for the composition of the team and determining playing time. We cannot and will not guarantee playing time to anyone. Decisions are made in the best interest of the team, and this may include some players not playing in some matches.

The head coaches will make their decisions based on a player's attendance, effort and performance at practices, the importance of an event, attitude, and most importantly the team's needs. As parents, please understand our coaches will do their best do get everyone playing time, but our focus at tournaments is the team's success. We will do our best to get our athletes the best training in the practice sessions and clinics, but we cannot guarantee playing time at tournaments to anyone.

If you feel you must discuss your child's playing time with a coach **DO NOT DO SO AT THE TOURNAMENT**. We required a **48 hour** 'cooling off' period before discussion. Several times we have seen games lost because a coach lost their objectivity as the result of a discussion with a parent influencing their decisions. Please set up a meeting according to the guidelines under [Grievance/Escalation Procedures](#).

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Grievance/Escalation Procedures

Parents and athletes **should not approach coaches about playing time during tournaments or practices**. Your fees go to training and qualified instruction, not playing time. Concerns are welcome and we want to hear from you, but you **must wait at least 48 hours after the tournament** in question to schedule a meeting.

If there is an issue, we ask that you follow the escalation procedure below and schedule any meetings with coaches, the club director, or administrative staff outside of training time.

Meetings should be scheduled via email.

The escalation sequence should be executed as follows

- (1) **athlete – coach**. If situation is not resolved, then
- (2) **parent – athlete – coach**. If situation is not resolved, then
- (3) **parent – athlete – coach – club director**

It is a critical part of the development process for players to learn to advocate for themselves with their coaches. At no time should a parent approach the coach or the club director about playing time unless the steps above have been followed.

Tournament Travel

- Athletes must travel to all tournaments with parents and stay in parent rooms. Parents are responsible for their daughters at all times.
- For all tournaments, each team should stay together at the same hotel:
 - For **Stay and Play** tournaments (usually National Qualifiers, and other major events) parents and players are expected to stay at hotels contracted by the tournament organizers. For these tournaments, parents are expected to secure a room at the sanctioned tournament hotel through their booking links unless they meet one of the tournament organizer's documented exceptions. **Failure to stay at a tournament hotel can jeopardize the team's ability to participate.**
 - The following are the only exceptions to the Stay and Play policy, per USAV:
 1. Using loyalty points for a free room
 2. Club facility is within 75 miles of the tournament location. 3. You receive a Military or Government discount 4. You are staying with a family member.
 5. All of these exceptions must be documented so we can present them to tournament organizers.
 - For non Stay and Play tournaments, the team as a whole, or a Team Parent, can organize a hotel for the team, and all players should stay at this hotel.

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- **The travel experience is an important aspect of team bonding, and this is not possible when team members are spread out over multiple hotels.**
- If a parent cannot attend a travel tournament, then another parent can be given temporary guardianship.
- Club fees do not include any travel expenses for athletes.
- Remember your number 1 priority on these trips is VOLLEYBALL. While amusement parks and other attractions may be tempting, these should not interfere with tournament play, including exhausted girls showing up to a match.
- All Athletes must adhere to curfews established by their coach or chaperone when traveling with club. Club policy is that we want all athletes in bed by 10:00 unless playing schedules do not permit.
- When at a lodging location, Athletes must travel in pairs (minimum) when walking outside of the lodging premises
- Cell phones are to be used only at certain off times during tournament travel.

Part 5: Facility and Club Property Rules

General

- M2 does not assume liability for property loss and/or injuries resulting from any activity
- Athletes and families shall utilize all Recreational Facilities at their own risk.
- Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages, including public intoxication is prohibited.
- Smoking and the use of chewing tobacco is prohibited.
- No food, drink (except water and sports drink in closed containers), or chewing gum is allowed in any program areas.
- Weapons are prohibited.
- Bicycles, rollerblades, and skateboards are prohibited in all indoor facilities.
- Appropriate athletic footwear is required in all activity areas. Shoes that leave black marks on floors, boots, sandals, or open toed shoes are prohibited in all program areas.

Practices

- **Parents are not allowed in the playing area during practices.** It is recommended that you drop your daughter off for practice, but if you decide to stay, we require that you bring a chair and remain **completely** outside the playing area (within the workout area).

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- Restrooms are available for parents, however parents must NOT in any way disrupt a practice that is underway or remain at the end of the courts to watch.
- Parents will be given a first warning, but if you continue to disregard this rule, we may remove your daughter from that practice.

Balls and ball carts

For certain tournaments, players may be asked to bring warmup/practice balls with them. Once you leave the club, the balls are the responsibility of the player removing them. Teams will be charged collectively to replace any balls or ball carts that are not returned to the club after a tournament. M2 will not contact tournament venues to try to track them down, however team parents may do so in an attempt to locate the lost property.

Part 6: Financial Obligations

Parents are expected to keep up with their dues and payment schedules. Once the M2 Financial Agreement is signed, they are contractually obligated to pay the full amount for the season, **even if their player decides to drop before the end of the season.** Once you commit to a team, the club incurs expenses whether you continue your season with the club or not. **It is your responsibility to make sure all payments are made – invoices will not be sent.**

All payments are due by the 5th of the month.

- If a payment is paid late there will be a **\$50.00 late fee**, and the athlete will not be able to participate in any sanctioned events until a payment is made.
- If a payment does not clear, you will be charged a **\$30.00 transaction fee**.
- If the problem occurs two times, you will be asked to pay by cash or a cashier's check.

If an account is not paid in full, the athlete will not be allowed to tryout or participate with any other Southern Region volleyball affiliation until the account is paid, and the participant's name may be turned into UIL because they will have violated their "amateur status". The parent/guardian responsible for the player will also be responsible for any additional costs or expenses incurred by the club while pursuing collections.

Signature

By signing this document, I am confirming that both my daughter and I have read it in its entirety and agree to abide by the guidelines set forth in this document. We understand that failure to do so may result in the consequences outlined above. We also understand, that in cases where removal from the club is necessary because the code of conduct was not followed,

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we are not owed any refund, nor are we excused from any remaining financial obligations to the club.

Parent Signature on behalf of Player and Parent(s):

Parent

Player

Date

Part 7: Appendix

USAV Spectator Guidelines:

All persons entering this USA Volleyball event understand and agree to the following Code of Conduct as a condition of attendance:

I WILL:

1. I WILL abide by the official rules of USA Volleyball.
2. I WILL display good sportsmanship at all times.
3. I WILL educate myself on the unique rules of this facility and abide by them.
4. I WILL generate goodwill by being polite and respectful to those around me at this event.
5. I WILL immediately notify the Event Director and/or Program Administrator in the event that I witness any illegal activity.
6. I WILL acknowledge that the spectator seating around the courts is for the primary use of those watching the match in progress.
7. I WILL acknowledge that spectators may rightfully choose to remain in a seat for an entire match without switching sides of the court when the teams switch.

I WILL NOT

1. I WILL NOT harass or intimidate the officials, including line judges and scorers.

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2. I WILL NOT participate in any game or game-like activities unless I have a current membership with USA Volleyball.
3. I WILL NOT bring and/or carry any firearms at any USA Volleyball event.
4. *I WILL NOT use tobacco products or illegal drugs on the premises.*
5. I WILL NOT bring, purchase, or consume alcohol at any Youth/ Junior volleyball event.

USAV Tournament Honor Code

- Team members will display proper respect and sportsmanship toward coaches, officials, administrator, teammates, fellow competitors and the public at all times.
- Team members and staff will refrain from any illegal or inappropriate behavior that would detract from a positive image of the team or be detrimental to its performance objectives.
- The possession or use of alcohol or tobacco products by any athlete is prohibited.
- The possession, use or sale/distribution of any controlled or illegal substance or any form of weapon is strictly forbidden.
- Team members are reminded that when competing in tournaments, traveling on trips and attending other club-related functions, they are representing both themselves and M2. Athlete behavior must positively reflect the high standards of the club.
- Players are to refrain from inappropriate physical contact at team activities.
- Players are to refrain from the use of inappropriate language