



Player / Parent Handbook

Revised: 11/9/2023

Our Mission

De Pere Diggers Volleyball Club's mission is to develop highly skilled volleyball players. De Pere Diggers Volleyball Club will strive to provide a quality experience to all players on the team, to develop the skills and game understanding, and to increase parent understanding of the game of volleyball.

2023/2024 Contact Information

Name	Title	Team	Phone #	Email
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Mabel Kirst Matt Cassidy	Head Coach Asst Coach	16s 12s/13s/14s	920-606-6739 920-619-9323	kirst.mabel@yahoo.com mhkclcass4@aol.com

Please contact the Club Director with general club questions. Specific team-related questions should be directed to the appropriate coach.

For general club information and updates about the club & teams throughout the season, please visit the website: www.deperediggers.com

Club Rules and Guidelines

Players & Parents will carefully review the Club Rules and Guidelines / Expectations as outlined in this handbook.

Practices

Athletes are expected to display a high level of commitment to the team by attending scheduled practices. Practice schedules will be posted on the website so that the athlete can plan accordingly. The club will make every attempt to provide advanced notice if there are changes to the practice schedule. The most-up-to-date schedule will be posted on the website.

Team practices will be held on Saturdays and Sundays at the De Pere Middle School. We may offer some team and/or specific positional training on Fridays. It is important to have all of the team members attend these practices in order to prepare for tournaments. Please let your coach know ahead of time if you are not able to attend. The consequence of an *unexcused* absence may result in loss of playing time. *Note: Exact schedules will be finalized following the planning meeting and will be posted on the website. Additional practices are also dependent on gym time availability.*

Players should make every effort to respect the facilities at which they practice. Misuse, lack of clean up, or damage to the facility may result in additional fees, loss of playing time and/or possible dismissal of the player.

Tournaments

A planning meeting will be held to select tournaments based on player schedules. This will be done on a team by team basis. Once players have committed to specific tournaments, they are expected to play in them.

Tournament competition is generally held on a Saturday or Sunday. One day tournaments normally begin at 8am and last until late afternoon / early evening. Before the team/players leave their court after a match, they must clean up their team area. Clubs may be fined by tournament officials for messes left behind.

The club will attempt to provide tournament day schedules to the parents as much in advance as possible. Tournament hosts are required to provide schedules the Wednesday before the tournament.

If weather conditions are an issue, the decision to withdraw from the tournament will be made by the coach and club director. The coach will contact the team members to let them know if the trip is canceled.

Some tournaments do not allow food or drinks to be carried in by players or spectators. We must follow the tournament rules or face possible sanction fines from Badger Region.

Under no circumstances is a parent allowed to approach a coach with a concern / complaint during a game or on the day of the tournament. Complaints should never be aired in front of team members at any time including practices. Please refer to the Communication Policy (below) for guidelines in handling questions and concerns.

While wearing a De Pere Diggers Volleyball uniform, athletes are expected to conduct themselves with integrity, respect, proper manners, and common courtesy.

Transportation/Accommodations

It is up to the parents to transport their child to and from practices/tournaments. Hotel arrangements and expenses are the responsibility of the parents.

Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy

Athletes are prohibited from using drugs, alcohol or tobacco at any time while associated with De Pere Diggers Volleyball Club. This includes traveling to or from practice / tournaments. Minors are not permitted in hotel rooms without parental consent where there might be these substances. A player who is found to be using any of these substances will be dismissed immediately from the De Pere Diggers Volleyball organization.

Position & Playing Time

The club and coaches will make every attempt to place a player into their preferred position. The coaches will assess the abilities of all of the players during practices and place the athletes into positions that will positively affect the team. During the course of the season, the coach may make adjustments to the assigned player positions. You are guaranteed practice time, playing time is earned in practice.

U13 and U14 will be developmental teams. It is the goal of the club to develop the player's skill and knowledge of the game. We will strive to teach basic skills involving serving, setting, passing & attacking. The players will learn basic offense and defense strategies. Playing time will be left to the discretion of the coach. However, players on the development teams will be provided appropriate opportunities for skill development in game situations.

U15 and above teams will primarily focus on mastering skills through practice and competing at the highest level in tournaments. Athletes will be trained to anticipate and read the opposing team's offense and defense. They will be taught advanced offensive and defensive skills and strategies. Playing time will be left to the discretion of the coach. Skill, attitude/behavior, teamwork, coachability and practice attendance will factor into playing time.

If a parent has questions regarding playing time, they should first talk to their daughter and find out what is going on in practice. The player should talk to the coach to understand what they need to work on in order to earn more playing time.

Conflict Communication Policy

It is our primary goal to provide a positive experience for players and parents. If there is a question or concern, the player/coach/parent communication sequence of events is as follows:

Step 1 - The player speaks with the coach about her concern. This should **NOT** take place *during* practice or a game.

Step 2 – If the concern is not addressed to the player’s satisfaction, the player and parent may request a meeting with the coach.

Step 3 – If the player and coach cannot resolve the issue, the concern may be brought to the club director.
THE PLAYER MUST BE PRESENT AT THIS MEETING.

It is important to encourage the player to first address their questions and concerns with their coach. This will promote maturity and encourage them to advocate for themselves.

Fee Agreement

The membership fee is \$650 per player. All membership fees are due after an offer has been accepted and prior to the athlete attending practice (unless payment arrangements have been made with director, Michelle DeLeeuw). Payment should be made prior to the All-Players Organizational/Planning Meeting. The membership fee covers club costs associated with coaching expenses, facilities, tournaments, uniforms, administrative fees & other club expenses. Make checks payable to: *De Pere Diggers Volleyball Club*. Players cannot practice without having paid this fee (unless arrangements have been made).

Parents are responsible for costs associated with transportation, hotel accommodations, food, socks, shoes, black spandex, knee pads, miscellaneous volleyball equipment and team building. Teams that decide to purchase matching socks or athletic wear will be personally responsible for the cost.

There will be no refunds given to a player who prematurely leaves the program by quitting or dismissal.

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 Club Badger Region team, on a case-by-case basis with a physician’s letter. Injuries occurred outside of Club Badger Region will not be considered for a refund.

If a player is diagnosed with a covid-related illness or other medical condition that does not allow them to participate, De Pere Diggers is not obligated to refund player fees.

Player Code of Conduct

- You represent De Pere Diggers Volleyball Club at practices & tournaments. It is expected that each player will conduct themselves in a respectful & courteous manner. Offensive language or behavior will not be tolerated.
- Encourage your teammates. Treat team players, coaches, opposing team members & officials with courtesy & respect.
- Arrive to practice / tournaments on time. Come fully dressed & ready to start.
- Players are to arrive to practice 10 -15 minutes ahead of the scheduled start time to help set up the nets & retrieve the volleyball equipment.
- Players are to arrive at tournaments and be ready to play a minimum of 30 minutes ahead of the scheduled start time for warm ups. Coaches will confirm this with you prior to tournaments.
- If you are going to be late or miss practice for any reason, **YOU** need to let your coach know **BEFORE** practice. Each coach will have a contact procedure so each athlete will be able to contact her coach. This is very important and shows your commitment to the team. “If you tell us beforehand, you have a reason to miss, after the miss, it is just an excuse”.
- An unexcused absence (meaning no call to let your coach know you won’t be there) will result in the player not being able to play in the first match of the next tournament.
- If the player cannot attend a tournament due to conflict, the coach must be notified two weeks in advance.
- Athletes will wear appropriate attire to practice (t-shirt, spandex, volleyball shoes, knee pads, no cut off sleeves on t-shirts). Attire will not display profanity or inappropriate graphics.

- Report all injuries to your coach no matter how small.
- No food, gum or drinks are allowed at practice in the gym. Water bottles are allowed.
- Some tournaments have a “no carry in” policy. Please follow their rules.
- Pick up your trash at practice and tournaments. Before leaving practice, help take down nets and put away equipment.
- Do not wear jewelry, earrings, hair clips etc... to practice or tournaments.
- Phone use is not allowed until the players are excused from practice. Limited phone use may be permitted at tournaments. Players are not allowed to use their phone while scorekeeping or refereeing.
- When you’re not playing, cheer for your teammates. Inattentive horseplay or poor behavior on the bench is not tolerated.
- ALL players must do their part in refereeing, line judging and score keeping. Each player must participate. It is encouraged that the players rotate duties so that no one is stuck doing the same thing all the time.
- For an overnight stay with game start time of 8am, the player’s curfew is 10pm for U13 / U14. Curfew is 11pm for U15 and above (unless the coach states otherwise).
- When at tournaments, stay with your coach / team. Players are **NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE** the event until you are excused by the coach. Minors must not leave the venue unless accompanied by an adult.

Parent Code of Conduct

- Display good sportsmanship. Encourage the players. Respect the coaches and officials.
- Locker rooms and changing areas are for the players, coaches and officials only.
- Physical or verbal altercation with a player, coach or official **is not tolerated**.
- Follow the rules of the tournament regarding: parking, no carry- ins, no lawn chairs etc...
- Do not give the coach “coaching” advice. They are coaching because they are qualified and have experience.
- Do not approach a coach or player with a complaint during a game or on the day of the tournament. Save your comments. If necessary, follow the Communication Policy as outlined in this handbook.
- Be a good example to your child. Provide positive feedback to them, other players, coaches and opposing team members.
- Avoid conduct that is inappropriate such as booing, using foul language, and derogatory comments.
- Respect the dignity of these young athletes. Don’t tear them down, rather lift them up.
- Remember, it’s a game! Your attitude and behavior as a spectator can affect the mood and success of the game.

Player / Parent Agreement

All players who have completed their membership with USAV have signed and agreed to abide by the USAV Participant Code of Conduct as found on the USAV website (you will need to login with your user id and password to view this again).

Failure to comply with the rules, regulations and financial obligations defined in this handbook may subject the player to immediate dismissal from De Pere Diggers Volleyball Club. Dismissal will be at the sole discretion of the club administration. There will be no refund of fees.