



Playtime Policy

Philosophy

The Ducks philosophy is to provide as many athletes as possible the opportunity to compete and participate in the sport of volleyball. Ducks teams will compete and train at the highest appropriate developmental level possible, to ensure that our teams are continually being challenged and growing. Therefore, playing time is earned. The club and coaching staff will determine the abilities and level of play for each team. During Volleyball BC, Volleyball Canada, Provincial and National events, the Ducks Volleyball will compete to place as high as possible.

Playtime Guidelines

Below are the guidelines Ducks coaches use to facilitate the earning of playing time. Coaching staffs have final decision making in all playing time situations. These are guidelines, as number of other factors may also contribute to playing time decisions:

- Practices + Competitions
 - Athletes are expected to be committed to attending practices and competitions regularly.
 - Athletes are expected to arrive at team matches and events on time, as outlined by the coaches.
 - Athletes are expected to demonstrate a strong work ethic, growth mindset, positive attitude, team cohesion, and coachability.
- Game Play
 - Athletes must have the ability to perform all necessary skills and/or positions at their development level during competition.
 - Athletes must demonstrate cohesion with the team.

11U - 14U

- Playing time will follow the Fair Play Rule developed by Volleyball Canada and Volleyball BC for the entire club season. [Please see the Volleyball BC Fair Play rationale.](#)
- In order to be eligible to play at the Provincial Championships, 12U - 14U athletes must make attending practice and games a priority. Athletes who are absent from a significant number of practices and games, miss important developmental opportunities, and may not be placed on the provincial rosters based on the coaches and Ducks Executive recommendations.

15U - 18U

- Playing time will look to follow the Fair Play Rule developed by Volleyball Canada and Volleyball BC during exhibition matches, and the round robin of all non provincial ranking and seeding events. [Please see the Volleyball BC Fair Play rationale.](#) However, playing time during the playoffs at these events will be at the discretion of the coaching staff, and may not be fair nor equal. There are also situations where coaches will be exploring lineups, rotations etc. Fair Play is a guideline, not a rule. Coaches have final discretion regarding playing time choices.

- Playing time will be at the coaches discretion during all Volleyball BC Events, Provincials Ranking Tournaments, Provincial Championships and National Championships.
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Parent and Athlete Expectations

Communication

Players and parents are required to initiate the discussion of a concern. If a face-to-face meeting is required, schedule a time before or after practice to talk. Players and parents are required to wait 48 hours after a tournament before initiating any type of communication with a coach regarding playing time issues. If a player is concerned or unclear about her role on the team, she should initiate a meeting with her coach to discuss the matter either before or after practice. Typically, communication with the coach and/or club proceeds in the following order:

- 1st Communication: Player and Coach
- 2nd Communication: Player, Parent and Coach (if 1st communication unresolved)

Playing Time

During a tournaments, coaches are constantly adjusting and evaluating line-ups, which means that some players will receive more court time than others. Players are expected to understand and accept their role as defined by the coach, and concede that the collective performance of the collective team has priority – over the individual player. Under no circumstances is it permissible for a parent or player to approach a coach during competition or at a tournament site to discuss playing time. Players and parents are required to wait 48 hours after a tournament before initiating any type of communication with a coach regarding playing time issues. If a player is concerned or unclear about her role on the team, she should initiate a meeting with her coach to discuss the matter either before or after practice.

Practice Attendance and Communication

Players are expected to attend all practices and tournaments throughout the entire season. In the event that a player cannot attend practice, she must notify the coach as soon as possible, but no later than one hour before practice and 48-hours for tournaments. Tournament conflicts should be reported as soon as possible when conflicts become known. Mandatory school/academic functions, illness and family emergencies are considered excused absences when communicated IN ADVANCE. To minimise consequences due to absence, players must act responsibly regarding their absence, and inform the coach of the conflict with as much notice as possible. Any activity that a player is committed to outside of her team that may present a practice or tournament conflict must be communicated to her coach in advance. We value multi-sport athletes, however, it can only work when such commitments/conflicts are communicated in advance.