



**DRIVEN DRAGONS**

# Player & Parent Handbook

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## Introduction

We are pleased to present our comprehensive Parent & Player Handbook, meticulously crafted to enlighten our esteemed Driven Dragons club families about the profound aspects of our mission, core values, goals, and Academy policies. This handbook serves as an invaluable resource, offering clarity on the roles and responsibilities of coaches, players, and parents throughout the volleyball club season. With a focus on enhancing your understanding of our club's season, this guide is designed to address any queries and empower you to derive maximum value from the enriching club volleyball experience.

### LEADERSHIP & DRIVEN DRAGONS TRANSFORMATION SPECIALIST (DTS)

Jaime Marie Lizarazu, the visionary founder of Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy, brings a deeply personal connection to the sport of Volleyball. From her early days as an

introverted and shy athlete, Jaime found her confidence and sportsmanship flourishing on the volleyball court. Inspired by remarkable coaches and leaders who played pivotal roles in her upbringing, she is driven by the sincere desire to provide others with the transformative experiences that shaped her own journey in the sport.

Following a successful career in Engineering spanning two decades, Jaime initiated her first Volleyball clinic in 2022, initially aimed at creating a positive introduction to the sport for her 12-year-old daughter and other young athletes in the community. From this humble beginning, the Academy rapidly evolved, nurturing leaders both on and off the court. Witnessing the profound impact on young women, Jaime made the dedicated decision to commit herself full-time to the operation of Driven Dragon's Volleyball Academy.

At the core of our Academy's ethos is a commitment to inclusivity, welcoming both novice and advanced players. Our coaching team represents a spectrum of expertise. Certified through the Positive Coaching Alliance or actively pursuing this certification, our coaches embody and uphold the values that form the bedrock of the Driven Dragons' culture—values that guide and inspire our players to reach new heights both on and off the court.

## Part I: Playing for a Driven Dragons Club Team

## Mission Statement & Core Values

The Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy unwaveringly commits to the holistic development of our players, cultivating them into leaders and champions, irrespective of victory or defeat, both within and beyond the volleyball court.

Our players are challenged to excel at every level of volleyball, spanning from novice to advanced, while adhering to a high standard that instills leadership values essential for success in all life pursuits. We aspire to nurture the complete individual, transcending the realm of a mere player, by offering opportunities for personal growth that transform them into outstanding volleyball athletes and leaders in every facet of life.

Outlined below is a succinct overview of our core values, which serve as the guiding principles shaping the distinctive culture of The Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy.

The **Model-Driven Dragon Values** represent the cornerstone of our ethos, embodying the essence of what makes our academy unique. Each value serves as a guiding principle, fostering a culture of excellence and camaraderie.

### **Fun:**

At the heart of our approach is the belief that Fun is the primary catalyst for 100% engagement in everything we do.

### **Positivity:**

We encourage a positive attitude, empowering individuals to resiliently navigate challenges, learn, grow, and forge ahead with unwavering optimism.

**Respectful/Kindness/Compassion:**

Foundational to our philosophy is the practice of mutual respect, kindness, and compassion, elevating not only oneself but also others during challenging moments.

**Passion:**

Our players are fueled by a profound passion, infusing their training and play with wholehearted dedication.

**Assertiveness:**

With a proactive mindset, our players assertively move to the ball, confidently call it 'mine,' and persist until the final whistle.

**Explosiveness:**

Physical vitality is cultivated through excellent energy, supported by a commitment to daily, healthy meals for sustained performance.

**Driven:**

A relentless pursuit of improvement drives our players to aspire to be better than the day before, continuously evolving into the best versions of themselves on and off the court.

**Balanced:**



Striving for harmony, our players maintain balance in playing, eating, sleeping, resting, and leadership, fostering well-rounded individuals.

**Self-Starter:**

A commitment to personal growth is evident as our players actively work on sharpening their skills daily, with every play.

**Communication:**

Recognizing the paramount importance of communication, our players excel in fostering great communication with teammates, coaches, and parents, acknowledging its pivotal role in achieving success and enjoyment both in sports and life.

## OPEN GYMS & TRYOUTS & OFFERS

The Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy annually conducts open gyms and tryouts to identify and select talented players for our esteemed club teams. Specifically, open gyms for girls' teams are typically scheduled in July, September and October, culminating in tryouts at the end of July, October and/or early November.

We continuously evaluate players during both official tryouts and informal sessions like open gyms. Our coaches record players' performance, attitude, and interactions during these

sessions. Selecting teams is a comprehensive process, and we consider all interested players. Official tryout dates primarily help us observe how new and returning players interact and behave together.

The final team selections are reviewed and approved by Director Jaime Lizarazu based on all the data provided by coaches, from video footage, and from player and family past experience within our Academy.

Our commitment to fair and comprehensive evaluation remains steadfast, ensuring that every aspiring athlete has an equitable opportunity to showcase their talents and contribute to the continued success of The Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy.

After tryouts and before offers go out, if you feel your volleyball player needs more attention before the team selection process is final, feel free to send any highlight videos to **PeopleSuccess@DrivenDragons.com**

## Selection Process

The selection process for Driven Dragons Club teams is grounded in a comprehensive evaluation, considering various key criteria to ensure the assembly of dedicated and skilled players. The criteria for selection include:

### Player Behavior and Performance:

Evaluation of behavior and performance during open gyms and tryouts, encompassing skill level, effort, and collaborative interaction with fellow players.

### Past Volleyball Experiences:

An assessment of an individual's history and experiences in the realm of volleyball, acknowledging the depth of their involvement and growth within the sport.

## Positive Parental Involvement or Behavior:

Recognition of a positive history of parental involvement and behavior, acknowledging the crucial role that supportive families play in the holistic development of young athletes.

## Good Standing with Governing Bodies and with Driven Dragons:

Ensuring participants maintain good standing with Driven Dragons, as well as with the Keystone Region Volleyball Association (KRVA), Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), and USA Volleyball. Compliance with the rules, regulations, policies, and guidelines of these organizations is a fundamental expectation.

### KRVA:

- The Keystone Region Volleyball Association (KRVA), operating as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, serves as the governing body for USA Volleyball clubs in Pennsylvania. Adherence to KRVA rules and regulations is mandatory for all affiliated teams.

### USA Volleyball:

- Recognized as the national governing body of volleyball in the United States, USA Volleyball operates under the auspices of the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball and the United States Olympic Committee.

### AAU:

- The Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), a multi-sport organization dedicated to promoting and developing amateur sports and

physical fitness programs, represents another essential governing body for our athletes.

#### Driven Dragons

- ★ To be in good standing with the Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy, athletes, and their families should be aligned with this handbook. Families must be current on payments to the Academy to continue to participate in events. Failure to abide by this handbook can result in temporary to permanent suspension from the Academy.

#### Coachability:

An evaluation of an individual's coachability, recognizing the ability to receive feedback, implement guidance, and continuously improve.

#### Potential:

Recognition of the untapped potential and the capacity for growth and development, affirming the commitment to fostering the advancement of each player.

Through this meticulous selection process, we aim to form teams composed of not only skilled athletes but also individuals who embody the values and standards upheld by Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy.



## Offer Letters

Formal offers for participation in the Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy are conveyed with the utmost professionalism and transparency. These offers are disseminated exclusively through email and are released in accordance with the Keystone Region's (KRVA) designated date and time protocol.

It is essential to note that, irrespective of when a player undergoes a tryout before this date, the formal decision will only be communicated on or after the official date set by the Keystone region, or potentially a few days thereafter. The formal offer will be directed to the primary contact/parent/guardian's email address, and a prompt response is requested within 48 hours to indicate acceptance or decline of the offer.

The comprehensive offer will encompass all pertinent details for the season, including tuition information and the scope of coverage. We encourage a swift decision-making process, as the release of offers is interconnected with other aspiring players eagerly awaiting their opportunity. It is imperative to recognize that all accepted offers are considered financially committed under a formal contract, solidifying the commitment to a mutually rewarding and successful season ahead.

### Compassion Clause - ages 14 and under:

At the Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy, our commitment to player development goes beyond the selection process. We recognize the inherent value and potential within every player, and our Compassion Clause ensures that each participant is provided with a pathway for growth and engagement within our club.

For players falling within the 10-14U age definition who may not secure a spot on our Regional/National Teams during the club tryout season, we extend an invitation to join our Pilot Club Teams. The Pilot Team, our developmental league, offers an enriching two-month program with weekly practices, including a uniform package and participation in one to two tournaments. Notably, the Pilot Team presents a cost-effective alternative compared to our Regional/National Teams.

In the event that the Pilot Team reaches full capacity, the player will be offered a position as a Practice Player on the Pilot Team. While Practice Players do not receive a uniform package or attend team tournaments, they benefit from attending practices to enhance their skills for the next level. In rare instances where we exceed capacity for both Pilot Teams and Practice Players, families will be put on a waiting list to attend our upcoming clinics within the same club season year. These clinics, conducted in the Fall and Spring, offer continued skill development opportunities.

### Loyalty Offers:

The Keystone Region Volleyball Association (KRVA) has granted clubs the opportunity to extend early offers to players who were part of the club during the previous season. In alignment with this provision, Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy has implemented Loyalty Offers for the upcoming season.

Loyalty offers, once accepted by the family, bond the athlete to the club for the upcoming season. It does nothing further in regard to guaranteeing which team the player will be assigned once the season starts. Athletes who accept loyalty offers are still required to attend tryouts, so Driven Dragons Leadership can determine which team makes sense for the athlete's current skills, abilities, and attitude. A loyalty offer

acceptee must pay 1 tryout fee for the upcoming season, however, they are granted free play in the summer “Driven” league, as our way of saying Thank you for your Loyalty. A tryout is still required for the loyalty player, as we need to determine which team is a best fit. Team decisions are made as early as August, but no later than the end of November going into the new season.

The recipients of Loyalty Offers are chosen based on their embodiment of the Driven Dragon Values, creating an exemplary club experience for all involved. Those players and parents who consistently role-model our values and contribute significantly to the positive atmosphere within the club are typically selected for Loyalty Offers. We place a high value on individuals who not only excel on the court but also contribute to the overall enhancement of our club culture.

The Loyalty Offer email shall include high-level details of the next season, such as tuition amount, amount of practices per week, amount of tournaments, and coaches. However, included in this email is a statement that says, things that are out of our control, may change. By accepting this offer, you agree to this statement.

It is important to note that, in the spirit of transparency and encouragement, we actively endorse our players and parents to explore opportunities with other clubs in the area. We recognize that each athlete and family must make decisions that align with their aspirations and goals. Therefore, declining a Loyalty Offer is fully understandable, and we respect and support the choices that contribute to the best individual fit for each player and family.

As we move forward, the continuation of Loyalty Offers will be considered in subsequent seasons, reinforcing our commitment to recognizing and rewarding those who consistently exemplify the Driven Dragon Values and contribute to the collective success of our volleyball community.



### **Time Commitment:**

Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy places a strong emphasis on holistic development, encouraging our players to engage in school activities and pursue a well-rounded involvement in other sports. We understand and value the importance of academics as the top priority for our players. While we strive to accommodate the reasonable demands of these external commitments, we do expect Driven Dragons tournaments to take precedence over other sports and activities during the club season.

Flexibility is key to our approach, and we make concerted efforts to accommodate various schedules. However, it's worth noting that players who align closely with our core values, especially the value of 'respecting' time, are likely to receive more playtime. This reflects our commitment to recognizing and rewarding players who demonstrate a strong dedication to the values that define the Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy.

Our philosophy not only prioritizes on-court excellence but also aims to foster character development and time-management skills among our athletes. We believe that players who actively engage with our values not only contribute positively to the team environment but also enhance their own experience and opportunities within the Driven Dragons community.

By encouraging a balanced approach to academics, sports, and other commitments, we aim to support our players in becoming well-rounded individuals who excel both on and off the volleyball court.



## TEAMS

Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy is committed to fostering a dynamic and supportive team environment. To achieve this, all teams within our academy are intentionally structured to consist of 9 to 11 players and 2 coaches. This deliberate roster size is designed with several key considerations in mind.

Firstly, recognizing the prevalence of multi-sport athletes within our program, we aim to strike a balance that accommodates the diverse commitments of our players. This approach ensures that each athlete can actively participate and contribute to the team while pursuing other interests.

Additionally, the consideration of potential injuries throughout the season underscores the importance of having a slightly larger roster. With a 9 to 11 player configuration, teams are better equipped to navigate any challenges that may arise, fostering an environment where players can support each other's growth and development.

By maintaining an optimal team size and coach-to-player ratio, we create a setting where individuals can not only excel in their volleyball skills but also form strong bonds, cultivate teamwork, and collectively overcome any obstacles that may arise during the season. This approach aligns with our commitment to providing a comprehensive and enriching experience for every participant in the Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy.

## Pilot Teams

Our Pilot Teams apply only to the 10-14U age definition. Our Pilot Teams

- Season Duration: 2 months long (December and January - with a winter break)
- Volleyball Team Practice 1 day a week for 2 hours in length at United Sports in Downingtown, PA
- Uniform Package
- Attend 1 tournament within 2 two-hour drive of Downingtown, PA
- Level of Competition: Low/Medium

## Regional Teams

Our Regional Teams apply to the following age definition for the 2024-2025 club season:

12U, 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U,

- Requires a tryout
- Season Duration: 4 months long (December through March - with a winter break)
- Volleyball Team Practice: 2 days a week, 1.15 to 2 hours each at United Sports in Downingtown, PA or a local YMCA in Exton, PA
- Strength & Conditioning Speed & Agility Training: 1 day a week, usually same day as volleyball practice
- Uniform Package (2 Jerseys, 2 Spandex/Shorts, Warm-ups, Practice T-shirt, Backpack)
- 4 to 6 tournaments (mostly multi-day, only on weekends) within a 2.5 - hour drive of Downingtown, PA

- Level of Competition: Medium/High

## National Teams (The Dream Team)

The formation of our National Team(s) at Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy is a distinguished honor, reserved for players of exceptional merit. The nomination process for our Dream Team, which occurs during the Regional Season from December to March, is a meticulous and discerning selection based on specific criteria.

Players and their families who exhibit a strong alignment with our Dragon Values, coupled with a high volleyball IQ, stand out for consideration in the Dream Team. The values of commitment, sportsmanship, and excellence on and off the court play a pivotal role in the nomination process.

Between January and March, coaches will verbally and subsequently communicate via email with the parents of nominated players, extending an offer to join the Dream Team. This specialized team operates from April through June, culminating in the AAU Nationals in Orlando, Florida. Acceptance of the Dream Team offer includes a tuition increase, which covers the expanded season's various aspects.

The increased tuition encompasses practice facility time, dedicated speed and agility training, updated uniforms, coaching fees, as well as coaching travel and hotel expenses, along with tournament entry fees. This comprehensive package is designed to provide an elevated and enriching experience for the Dream Team members.

Upon accepting the Dream

Team offer, players and parents will have until April 4, 2024, to fulfill the tuition. To support this financial commitment, Driven Dragons will offer fundraising options to help alleviate the cost burden and make this exceptional opportunity accessible to all qualified players.

The Dream Team represents a pinnacle experience at Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy, and we are committed to ensuring that each member of this elite team receives the necessary resources and support to thrive both on and off the volleyball court.

- Season Duration: 2.25 months long (extension from Regional Season, total 6.25 months long)
- Volleyball Team Practice: 2 days a week, 1.15 to 2 hours each at United Sports in Downingtown, PA
- Strength & Conditioning & Speed & Agility Training: 1 day a week, same day as volleyball practice
- Jersey Updates to reflect Dream Team
- 2 to 3 tournaments, 3 to 15 hours away, such as in NJ, MD, VA, FL. The Dream Team will attend AAU Nationals in Orlando, Florida, in June. (Total season tournaments including Regionals: 7 to 11)
- Level of Competition: High - *To ensure the players are challenged at the highest level, The Dream Team(s) may compete in a higher age group before attending nationals.*

**Note:** By committing to any Driven Dragons club team, player families are financially committed to attending every tournament at their own expense.

## Practices

### Team Practice

- Pilot Team practices 1x a week.
- Regional/National practices 2x a week
- Team practices are usually 1.5 to 2 hours long and may consist of group skills practice with other teams, team-specific practice, or a joint practice and scrimmage with another Driven Dragons team (or other local club teams).
- Our practice facility for this season is at United Sports at 1426 Marshallton Thorndale Road, Downingtown, PA.

### Strength & Conditioning & Speed & Agility Training

- This does not apply to our Pilot Team(s)
- Applies to our Regional/National Team(s)
- 1x a week at 45 minutes each session, may be combined with more than one Driven Dragon(s) Team
- This is performed 1 day a week, in United Sports on the same day as Volleyball Practice. This is run by Kinetic.

### Practice Requirements

At Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy, commitment to excellence extends to our practice environment, and we have established specific guidelines to ensure a focused and productive

atmosphere. We appreciate your cooperation in upholding these standards for the benefit of each player's development and the overall team dynamic:

Attendance and Punctuality:

- Players are expected to attend all scheduled practices promptly.
- In case of unavoidable conflicts, communicate any lateness, early departures, or absences to the coach via TeamSnap at the earliest convenience.

Timeliness:

- Practices will commence precisely on time. Players are expected to be punctual, allowing sufficient time for arrival.

Attitude and Engagement:

- Players are encouraged to have fun, work diligently, and demonstrate attentiveness and respect towards coaches and teammates throughout practice sessions.

Practice Attire:

- Driven Dragon Practice T-shirts are the required attire for all practice sessions.

Cell Phone Policy:

- Cell phone use during practice is strictly prohibited unless express permission is granted by the coach.

Team Training:

- Attendance at team training sessions is mandatory for all players.

Communication with Parents:

- Players are advised not to engage in conversations with parents during practice to maintain focus and cohesion within the team.

Consequences for Violations:

- Violations of Driven Dragon Practice Requirements by players may result in consequences such as suspension or missed playtime at tournaments.
- Parents are expected to adhere to the guidelines, and violations may lead to suspension from practice sessions.

These guidelines are designed to create a positive and constructive training environment. We appreciate your commitment to these expectations, as they contribute significantly to the overall



success and growth of each player and the collective strength of the Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy.

#### Canceled Practice:

Cancellation of practices is an infrequent but possible occurrence at Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy, typically arising from weather conditions or facility scheduling conflicts. Although every effort will be made to arrange makeup sessions for canceled practices, it's important to note that this may not always be feasible.

Factors such as weather-related issues or unforeseen conflicts with facility schedules are beyond our control. In the event of a canceled practice, we will communicate any available options for makeup sessions if circumstances permit. However, please understand that makeup opportunities may only be possible on occasion.

Your understanding and flexibility in such situations are appreciated, and we are committed to providing the best possible solutions when faced with practice cancellations. We encourage you to stay informed through our communication channels for timely updates regarding any changes to the practice schedule.

## Tournaments

**Driven Dragons:**

- Pilot Teams will compete in 1 tournament across their season.
- Regional Teams will compete in 5 to 7 tournaments across their season.
- National/Dream Teams will compete in 2 to 3 tournaments across their season.

Tentative team schedules for Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy will be made available on our website during tryouts, providing an initial overview of the upcoming season. It's essential to note that these schedules are subject to change based on factors such as tournament availability and other scheduling issues.

While we strive to provide a preliminary schedule during tryouts, the dynamic nature of volleyball tournaments may necessitate adjustments. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility in such situations.

By accepting a position on a Driven Dragons team, players are committing to attend all tournaments, even those not initially outlined in the preliminary schedule. This commitment ensures the team's cohesion and maximizes participation opportunities for each player. We appreciate your dedication to the team and look forward to an exciting and successful season together.

Please stay connected with the Driven Dragons website and TeamSnap App for the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding team schedules and any potential changes throughout the season.

## Regional Tournaments

For Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy, local tournaments are defined as those within a 65 mile drive from our practice facilities. Unlike tournaments that necessitate overnight stays, local tournaments generally do not require hotel accommodations. However, it's worth noting that some families may choose to arrange nearby lodging the night before a competition at their discretion.

Importantly, no travel arrangements will be facilitated by Driven Dragons staff for local tournaments. Families are encouraged to plan their own logistics, including transportation and accommodation preferences, for these events. **\*\*Exception: Once in awhile, Driven Dragons may submit a regional team into a stay and play event. This is a tournament that is over a 65 mile radius from our practice facility, that requires the team to stay overnight at the event in their selected hotels. Driven Dragons will share a link that accesses a room block, in which player's families will need to book their hotel stay through this link, in order for the team to attend this event. The entire team (each family) is required to purchase their rooms through the room block link, in order for the team to be eligible to play at the event. We never plan to attend stay and play events during the regional season, although, once in awhile, we like to try out new events that may require stay and play. Teams will be given as much notice in advance if a stay an play event is on their radar.**

This approach allows for flexibility and autonomy in making personalized arrangements while ensuring that families have the freedom to tailor their tournament experience according to their individual needs and preferences.

Please stay tuned for specific details related to each tournament and feel free to reach out if you have any questions or require additional information for planning purposes.

## National/Dream Team Tournaments:

For families accepting the nomination to the Dream Team at Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy, there is a tuition bump requirement to continue into the National season. The additional tuition aims to support the extended season's various components, including enhanced training, speed and agility sessions, updated uniforms, coaching fees (pay, travel, etc), and tournament entry fees.

Recognizing the financial commitment involved, fundraising options will be made available to assist families in managing this tuition bump, ensuring accessibility and flexibility.

When the Dream Team participates in local tournaments, the same guidelines and rules that apply to Regional Tournaments will be in effect. However, in instances where the Dream Team attends non-local tournaments—those exceeding a 65 mile drive from our practice facility—player families are solely responsible for covering all travel and hotel costs for both players and parents.

This approach provides transparency and allows families to plan accordingly for any non-local tournament participation, ensuring that each family has the flexibility to make personalized arrangements based on their preferences and circumstances.

Please feel free to reach out for further details or clarification, and we appreciate your commitment to the Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy Dream Team experience.

## Canceled Tournaments:

While Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy makes every effort to adhere to the planned tournament schedule, unforeseen events can occasionally lead to tournament cancellations or a team not being accepted to play. In such instances:

### Replacement of Canceled Tournaments:

- If a tournament is canceled for any reason, Driven Dragons will make an attempt to replace it with a similar event.
- However, finding a suitable alternative tournament is not always possible.

### No Refunds for Canceled Tournaments:

- No refunds will be issued for a canceled tournament, as efforts will be made to provide an alternative event to maintain the team's competitive schedule.

### Player/Family Costs Responsibility:

- Driven Dragons is not responsible for covering any player or family costs, including airline fees or hotel costs, associated with canceled tournaments.
- Families are encouraged to consider travel insurance or other protective measures to mitigate potential financial impacts in the event of cancellations.

This policy is designed to communicate the Academy's approach to handling unforeseen circumstances related to tournament cancellations. The emphasis is placed on finding suitable alternatives whenever feasible, with the understanding that refunds and coverage of associated costs may not always be possible due to factors beyond our control.

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding this policy, please feel free to reach out for clarification. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in navigating the dynamic nature of tournament scheduling.

## Tournament Policies

Driven Dragons Club Teams prioritize competition at the highest level during tournaments, emphasizing player focus and commitment. To maintain maximum focus during team competitions, the following rules are established for both preparedness and attitude and behavior:

### Preparedness:

#### Punctuality:

- Players are expected to arrive on time for all tournaments, warm-ups, and matches.
- Late arrivals may result in potential loss of playing time at the coach's discretion.

#### Sleep and Nutrition:

- Players commit to getting adequate sleep before tournaments and maintaining proper nutrition during the event.

#### Uniforms:

- Players must bring their full uniform, including all jerseys, to every tournament to ensure eligibility for playing time.

#### Warmups:

- Players should wear complete warmups when entering the tournament venue.

#### Neatness:

- Backpacks should be lined up neatly in designated areas at the court or camping area.

#### Hydration:

- Players are encouraged to have adequate water at the tournament for proper hydration during matches.

#### Timeliness:

- Being on time for Driven Dragon players is defined as arriving 10 minutes early and being ready to play.

## Attitude & Behavior:

### Representing the Club:

- Players and parents represent the club, coaches, teammates, and themselves, committing respectful behavior towards tournament officials, coaches, teammates, parents, and opponents.

### Cell/Smart Phones:

- Cell/smartphones must be removed during warmups, competition, and work duties. Violation may result in the player sitting out the next set with no exceptions.

### Camp Areas:

- Camp areas are to be kept neat.

### Interaction with Officials:

- Players and parents must refrain from arguing with officials, including player-line judges and scorekeepers. Disputes over scores should be handled by players and coaches only.

### Communication with Coaches:

- Parents must avoid approaching coaches about playing time, position, or disputes during a tournament.

### Officiating Assignments:

- All players must assist with line-judging, scorekeeping, score-flipping, and down officiating. No headsets or cell phones are allowed during officiating assignments.

These rules are established to ensure a focused and respectful tournament environment, promoting the values and standards of the Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy. Adherence to these guidelines contributes to a positive experience for all participants.

## Team Unity:

Team togetherness is a core principle at Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie among players and parents during tournaments. The following guidelines are in place to reinforce team cohesion and positive interactions:

### 1. Team Stay: Play Together, Work Together

- Players are expected to stay with their team throughout the tournament.
- This includes spending time together between matches whenever possible.
- For younger players, spending time with their parents is also encouraged.

### 2. Team Building Events:

- Team Building Events are deemed essential for success and are mandatory for both parents and players.
- These events provide an opportunity for players to bond as a team, while parents can form connections as the team parents.

### 3. Respectful Behavior:

- Players are expected to demonstrate respect for themselves and others at all times.
- Maintaining a positive and respectful attitude contributes to a cohesive and supportive team environment.

### 4. Support for Teammates:

- Players are encouraged to spend their downtime supporting other Driven Dragon teammates competing in the venue whenever possible.
- This collective support enhances team spirit and contributes to a positive overall experience for all players.



Emphasizing team togetherness not only enhances the tournament experience but also contributes to the overall success and growth of each player within the Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy. It creates an environment where mutual support and positive interactions form the foundation for success on and off the court.

## Playing Time

When parents and players make the commitment to club volleyball at Driven Dragons, they are embarking on a journey that involves both the benefits and challenges inherent in playing a team sport. Our commitment to parents and players is centered on the holistic development of the individual, with a focus on nurturing not just their volleyball skills but the entire person.

At Driven Dragons, our pledge includes:

Quality Coaching:

- Providing top-notch coaching to enhance each player's volleyball skills.
- Offering a coaching environment that prioritizes growth, learning, and individual development.

Fun and Intensive Practice:

- Creating a practice atmosphere that combines enjoyment with intensity.
- Offering opportunities for players to hone their skills through focused and engaging training sessions.

Player Development Opportunities:

- Facilitating avenues for players to grow both on and off the court.
- Offering developmental programs and initiatives to foster continuous improvement.

Tournament Competition:

- Providing opportunities for players to showcase their skills in competitive tournament settings.
- Emphasizing the valuable lessons learned through participation in high-stakes competition.

Our commitment extends beyond the confines of the volleyball court, aiming to instill qualities of teamwork, sportsmanship, and personal development. By focusing on the whole person, we aspire to help each player thrive not only as an athlete but also as an individual with valuable life skills and experiences gained through their journey with Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy.

## Play Time Criteria Breakdown

### Pilot Development Teams

- Everyone gets playtime, depending on the player's position in the game, amount of time-outs used, rotations, game and sideline behavior, it may vary among the team.

### Regional Teams

- Tournament Pool Play
  - Pool play consists of the initial games we play in a tournament. Each team competes against each other to determine who will make it to the playoffs and, if so, which division of playoffs the team falls into.
  - Who Plays in Pool Play:
    - There are only 6 positions on our side of the volleyball court and 9 to 11 players on a team. Our coaches will make sure everybody gets playtime. Our lineup should allow everyone to play in the first two games of each match during pool play. The winning lineup

plays the third game if there is a third game. (There may be exceptions to this rule at the coach's discretion.)

- Tournament Bracket Play
  - Bracket play is the playoffs of a tournament. It is when teams are divided into groups and face off against each other in successive rounds until one team emerges as champion.
  - Who plays in Bracket Play?
    - The Coaches determine bracket play time as to who has best modeled the Dragon Values during Pool Play. The more the players model the Dragon Values during Pool Play, the more the players will play in bracket play and vice versa. This approach teaches leadership and perseverance.

#### National/Dream Teams

- Our National Teams are considered more competitive than our Regional Teams. Our National Teams Tournament Play Time Criteria (Bracket and Pool Play) are determined by their Coaches based on how well the Athlete aligns with the Dragon Values (see Dragon Values listed above). And a few other factors as well:
  - Physical Ability: Volleyball foundations/Technique
  - Volleyball IQ: Making intelligent plays, strategizing, and capitalizing on opportunities

- Attendance: Volleyball is a weird sport, has funny rules and many exceptions, and takes time & effort to learn. Volleyball is a team sport requiring players to learn set plays, rotations, switches, substitutions, etc. Placing an athlete who needs to catch up on instructions frustrates the Athlete and hurts the team's chemistry. It reduces the fun coefficient.
- Position: The player's position determines their role in the team, which factors their playtime and place in the team's rotation.
- Attitude: A positive attitude during adversity wins games, tournaments, and hearts

### Parents and Playing Time

The support of parents is integral to the success of individual players and the overall team at Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy. We kindly request parents to play a positive and encouraging role, fostering confidence and a constructive mindset in their players, regardless of their role within the team.

Key points regarding parental support include:

#### Maintaining a Positive Attitude:

- Encouraging parents to maintain a positive attitude and support their players, whether they are starting players receiving significant playing time or substitutes with fewer rotations.

#### Respecting Coach Authority:

- Acknowledging that coaches and club leadership have the ultimate authority regarding team lineups and playing time decisions.

Communication Guidelines:

- Under no circumstances should parents discuss lineups or playing time with coaches, whether at tournaments, practices or through email or text.

Addressing Concerns:

- If a parent wishes to discuss playing time decisions, they should follow the outlined steps in the **People Success Policy** for a constructive and respectful resolution.

By adhering to these guidelines, we aim to create a supportive and positive environment for players, coaches, and parents alike. This approach ensures that discussions around playing time are handled through appropriate channels, fostering open communication and cooperation within the Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy community.

# PART II: DRIVEN DRAGONS COMMITMENT TO OUR PLAYERS

## PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

At Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy, our culture is rooted in the philosophy of Whole Person/Player Development. Our distinctive player development program is designed to empower each player to set and achieve their goals throughout the season, fostering growth both on and off the court. We are committed to ensuring a positive and enriching club experience for every participant.

Key features of our player development program include:

### Holistic Approach:

- Emphasizing the holistic development of each player, addressing not only their volleyball skills but also their character and personal growth.

### Coaching Excellence:

- Our head coaches, assistant coaches, and leadership are dedicated to working closely with players, providing guidance and support to help them reach their full potential.

### Positive Coaching Alliance:

- Our coaches are part of the Positive Coaching Alliance, reflecting our commitment to fostering a positive and encouraging environment for player development.

### Double-Goal Coaches:

- Our coaches hold certifications as double-goal coaches, prioritizing not only winning on the court but also ensuring the personal development and well-being of each player.

#### Individual Goal Focus:

- Our staff members actively engage with players to focus on their individual goals, tailoring support to meet their unique aspirations and challenges.

#### Club-Wide Programming:

- Offering comprehensive club-wide programming that encompasses skill training and character development initiatives.

The Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy is dedicated to creating an environment where players can thrive both as athletes and as individuals. By combining a commitment to excellence in coaching with a focus on character development, we aim to empower our players to achieve their goals and become well-rounded contributors to both the sport and their communities.

## Skill & Leadership Development

Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy places significant emphasis on individual skills training as a cornerstone for both player and team success. In the initial phase of the season, our teams prioritize personal skill development and fundamental training. The approach includes the following key elements:



Comprehensive Skill Training:

- All players will receive training in each fundamental skill of volleyball.

Skill Mastery:

- The focus is on ensuring that players learn each skill, believing that correct execution leads to elevated performance as the season progresses.

Seasonal Progression:

- Understanding that the primary goal at the start of the season is not solely centered on winning every match.
- The emphasis is on developing a consistent skill base among players, laying the foundation for success in later stages of the season.

Long-Term Success:

- The commitment to personal skill development aligns with the philosophy that building a strong skill set early on contributes to sustained success and growth throughout the season.

Team Cohesion:

- Recognizing that individual skill development is integral to fostering overall team success, players are equipped with the tools needed for effective collaboration and synergy on the court.

By instilling a culture of continuous skill improvement and mastery, Driven Dragons aims to provide players with the resources and training necessary to reach their full potential. The strategic approach emphasizes long-term success, contributing to both individual player development and the overall strength of the team.

## COLLEGE RECRUITING PROGRAM/TECHNOLOGY PACKAGE

Sports Recruits and Balltime are our 2 Tech Tools that enable your Volleyball Player to develop a Volleyball Resume Online and be able to connect with College Coaches. Starting in the 2024-2025 Season, we are providing Families the option to opt into the technology package during Club Registration. The technology package will be an additional fee ontop of the season tuition, which includes access to Balltime (Automatic Tracking of Stats per player, from Video Uploads) and Sports Recruits (Website to upload videos, create profile, research and connect with college coaches, get offers and commitments with colleges.)

We use to offer this option automatically for our National Teams, and was included in the National Tuition, but we learned, not everyone is interested in these tools. That said, we will make them available for anyone who opts in during registration.

## COACH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Coaching Excellence stands as a fundamental core value at The Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy, recognizing the profound impact that coaches have on the lives of our players. At Driven Dragons, we uphold our coaches to high standards both on and off the court. To support our coaching staff and ensure the delivery of top-tier coaching

to every Driven Dragons player, we have established a robust coach development program and provide extensive coaching resources.

Key Components of our Coaching Excellence Program:

**Comprehensive Coach Development:**

- Driven Dragons invest in a comprehensive coach development program to enhance the skills and capabilities of our coaching staff continually.

**Abundance of Coaching Resources:**

- Our coaches have access to a wealth of coaching resources, enabling them to stay current with best practices and innovative coaching techniques.

**Curriculum Based on USA Volleyball:**

- We adhere to the lesson plans created and managed by USA Volleyball, providing a standardized coaching curriculum.
- This ensures that all Driven Dragons practices and training sessions maintain a consistent and high level of technical development.

**Practice Plan Coordination:**

- Driven Dragons leadership collaborates with coaches to develop consistent practice plans.
- This coordination ensures that every Driven Dragons player, regardless of age or team, receives uniform and high-quality coaching instruction.

**Credentials and Certification:**

- All Driven Dragons Coaches hold certifications in SafeSport and Impact by USA Volleyball.

- Our coaches are registered with the Keystone Region Volleyball Association and Amateur Athletic Union.
- Ongoing efforts are made to achieve double-goal coaching certification through the Positive Coaching Alliance Organization.

By prioritizing Coaching Excellence, Driven Dragons aims to provide players with not only technical proficiency in volleyball but also positive mentorship and guidance. Our commitment to continuous improvement and adherence to established coaching standards contribute to a positive and enriching experience for every player within the academy.

**Disclaimer:** It is possible, that a Head Coach may be going through a rough patch in life, and their dedication and commitment may stall. Driven Dragons Leadership will pick up on this, and swiftly move this Head Coach either to an assistant coaching position or have them take a break away from the Academy until they are ready to fully commit. In these cases, Head Coach Jaime or another committed delegate Head Coach shall run the team until another suitable Head Coach is determined.

### **Letter from our Head Coaches to Parents**

As a coach, I am committed to Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) principles and against a “win-at-all-cost” mentality. I aim to be a Double-Goal Coach® who strives to win while pursuing the more important goal of teaching life lessons through sports.

Please help me by reinforcing three principles:

- 1) The ELM Tree of Mastery
- 2) Filling Emotional Tanks
- 3) Honoring the Game.

Here are some details on these principles.

## The ELM Tree of Mastery

**The ELM Tree of Mastery** While winning is important and learning to compete is one of the major life lessons available through sports, not everyone can win every game. Still, youth athletes are winners, regardless of what the scoreboard says, when they pursue mastery of their sports. To remember key elements of mastery, PCA uses the acronym ELM for Effort, Learning, and Mistakes are OK. Youth athletes who keep these things in mind develop habits that will serve them well. As an added benefit, athletes coached toward Mastery tend to have reduced anxiety and increased self-confidence because they focus on things they can control. Therefore, they are more likely to have fun and perform better.

Here's how you can help:

- Tell your children it's OK to make a mistake.
- Tell them you appreciate their best effort even if they fall short of the desired result.
- Recognize that Mastery is hard work and an ongoing process that can fuel great conversations about sports and life with your children.

## Filling Emotional Tanks

- An "Emotional Tank" is like the gas tank in a car. When it's empty, we go nowhere, but when it's full, we can go almost anywhere. The best fuel for an Emotional Tank is an average of five specific, truthful praises for each specific, constructive criticism. Here's how you can help:
- Encourage your children with specific tank fillers regardless of scoreboard results. Be honest, but remember the value of that 5:1 ratio. For every 1

correction, provide 5 positive compliments, where the 1 correction should be sandwiched between the compliments.

- Avoid an immediate and critical debrief right after the game.

## Honoring the Game

To help remember the ideals of sportsmanship, which PCA calls “ Honoring the Game,” we talk about respecting ROOTS, an acronym for Rules, Officials, Opponents, Teammates, and Self. Here’s how you can help:

- Review ROOTS with your children (you can learn more about the meaning of each letter by visiting PCA’s website at [www.positivecoach.org](http://www.positivecoach.org)).
- Model Honoring the Game yourself as you watch your children compete and even as you watch sports on TV together.
- Encourage other spectators to Honor the Game. For more Resources, visit [www.PCDevZone.org](http://www.PCDevZone.org) For more information on Positive Coaching Alliance, visit [www.PositiveCoach.org](http://www.PositiveCoach.org) © 2020 Positive Coaching Alliance. **Letter from our Head Coaches to Parents is provided by [www.PositiveCoach.org](http://www.PositiveCoach.org) © 2020**

## COMMUNICATION

Communication is a foundational core value at The Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy, and we believe that strong communication is pivotal to the success of our program. Clear and open lines of communication between the club, coaches, parents, and players serve as the cornerstone of a robust and thriving volleyball community. To facilitate effective communication, we have established the following guidelines:

## 1. Website:

- Our website, [www.DrivenDragonsVBA.com](http://www.DrivenDragonsVBA.com), and the TeamSnap app serve as a centralized hub for all club-related information.
- Regular updates, news, tournament schedules, practice details, club policies, contact information, coach profiles, team schedules, rosters, and player profiles can be found on our website and most updates are found in our TeamSnap App.

## 2. Emails:

- Emails to **PeopleSuccess@DrivenDragonsVBA.com** and text messages are our primary channels of communication.
- It is essential for parents and players to check their emails regularly for important updates.
- Ensure that your email address is accurate and free of typos in all registration and communication forms.

## 3. TeamSnap App:

- We have implemented the TeamSnap App for player/coach communication.
- Coaches, players, and parents are encouraged to use this platform for team-related communication throughout the season. (Coaches will always communicate to parents directly through these apps, and never to only just the athlete).

## 4. Parent Communications:

- Parents are encouraged to email **PeopleSuccess@DrivenDragonsVBA.com** for inquiries related to club business.
- Contacting coaches via the TeamSnap App is acceptable for logistics or scheduling issues.

- Refer to the **People Success Policy** in this manual for guidance on communicating concerns related to player performance or playing time.

## 5. Cell Phones and Text Messaging:

- While we understand the preference for text messaging, the TeamSnap App is the designated platform for player/coach communication.
- **Disclaimer:** If any of the open channels of communication start to turn negative, we reserve the right to delete the message and follow up with a phone call to resolve any issues.

Effective communication fosters a positive and cohesive environment within The Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy. By adhering to these guidelines, we aim to prevent misunderstandings and ensure that all stakeholders are well-informed and engaged in the success of our players and the overall club program.



## PART III: POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### UNIFORM POLICY

At The Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy, we place the responsibility on players to maintain their uniforms in top condition and keep track of all associated equipment. Adhering to these guidelines ensures a smooth and organized experience during tournaments. Here are key points regarding uniform responsibility and care:

#### 1. Uniform Condition:

- Players are responsible for ensuring that their uniforms are kept in excellent condition.
- The uniform package should be complete and brought to each tournament.

#### 2. Complete Uniform at Tournaments:

- Players must have all pieces of their uniform package with them at every tournament.
- Having a complete uniform is crucial to avoid any potential disruptions to playing time.

#### 3. Lost Playing Time:

- To avoid lost playing time, it is imperative that players arrive at tournaments with a complete and well-maintained uniform.

#### 4. Uniform Replacement Policies:

- Information about uniform replacement policies can be obtained by contacting **PeopleSuccess@DrivenDragonsVBA.com**
- This includes reporting issues such as receiving the wrong size or damaged uniforms.

## 5. Reporting Issues:

- Players should promptly report any issues with their uniforms, such as incorrect sizing or damages.
- For reporting and addressing concerns, please email **PeopleSuccess@DrivenDragonsVBA.com**

## 6. Tips for Uniform Care:

- Additional information and tips for proper uniform care can be provided by reaching out to the provided email address.

By emphasizing uniform responsibility and care, we ensure that players present themselves professionally and are fully prepared for the demands of tournament play. For specific inquiries, concerns, or information about uniform policies, players and parents are encouraged to contact [dtown-director@drivendragonsvba.com](mailto:dtown-director@drivendragonsvba.com) for assistance.

## TRAVEL: HOTEL AND FLIGHT POLICIES

At The Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy, we have established clear policies regarding travel and accommodation for our Pilot, Regional, and National/Dream Club Teams. These guidelines aim to ensure a smooth and organized experience for player families during tournaments.

Please review the following details:

### Pilot and Regional Club Teams:

Tournaments for these teams are limited to a maximum of a 65 mile drive from our practice facility.

Flights and hotels are not required for these tournaments.

If families choose to book a hotel for multi-day games, they are responsible for managing and covering the associated costs.

### National/Dream Teams:

Tournaments for these teams may require travel beyond a 65 mile drive from our practice facility.

Families are responsible for planning and booking necessary travel and hotel accommodations promptly.

**Travel and hotel costs are not included in the season tuition for National/Dream Teams.**

### Communication Method:

The primary mode of contacting families about hotels and travel arrangements is via email.

It is essential for families to check their email frequently, especially when aware that a team is attending a tournament requiring a hotel stay.

### Hotel Information & Policies:

Driven Dragons may attempt to reserve one room per team member in a Hotel Block. Additional rooms required by families must be secured directly from the hotel and may not be at the same team rate.

Most travel events are considered Stay-to-Play, necessitating teams to book hotel rooms provided by the event to avoid expulsion.

Families must stay in the designated Team Hotel and comply with tournament hotel policies.

Players must book a room within the specific Hotel Block provided by the event.

Failure to stay in the Team Hotel may result in the player being suspended from the tournament.

Note: We strive to provide enjoyable travel experiences and clean, well-run hotels. While we cannot always control external factors, we appreciate your understanding and cooperation in adhering to these policies. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us for assistance.

## FLIGHT INFO & POLICIES:

For the convenience and success of our players and teams, The Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy has established guidelines for family-funded travel. Please review the following details:

### Expense Responsibility:

- Travel expenses, including airline reservations, are the responsibility of the player's family.

### Arrival Day Before a Tournament:

- **Airline reservations should be scheduled to arrive the day before a tournament.**
- Arrival should be scheduled before 8 p.m.

### Avoiding Last Flight of the Day:

- **Families are advised not to book the last flight of the day to account for unexpected cancellations.**
- Unforeseen events may prevent a player from arriving at the tournament on time.

### Penalties for Early Departures or Late Arrivals:

- **Players who schedule late arrivals before a tournament or early departures that require leaving before a team has finished playing may face penalties at future tournaments.**

These guidelines are implemented to ensure that players are adequately prepared for tournaments and that team dynamics are not disrupted by late arrivals or early departures. By adhering to these travel arrangement guidelines, we aim to provide a smooth and focused tournament experience for all players. If you have any questions or require assistance with travel arrangements, please feel free to contact us.

## ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES

At The Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy, we place a high value on administrative efficiency to ensure the smooth operation of our teams and the well-being of our players. By committing to play for Driven Dragons, player families are also committing to meeting all administrative requirements promptly. Failure to meet these deadlines may result in players being benched from practices and tournaments. The administrative requirements include, but are not limited to:

### KRVA Registration Membership:

- Players must show their coach a copy of the updated, full-season KRVA registration membership.
- Deadline: First practice

### Medical Forms and Proof-of-Age Documents:

- Players must provide medical forms and proof-of-age documents if prompted by their Head Coach.

### Uniform Ordering:

- Ordering uniforms must be completed by the specified dates.

### Travel/Hotel Requirements:

- This requirement applies mostly to National/Dream Team players.
- Completing all travel/hotel requirements promptly is essential.

Adhering to these administrative requirements is crucial for the efficient functioning of the academy and the success of individual players and teams. We appreciate the commitment of player families to meet these deadlines promptly. If there are any challenges or questions regarding administrative requirements, please do not hesitate to contact us for assistance.

## FINANCIAL POLICY

Player families committing to play for the Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy are making a financial commitment to pay the full tuition promptly. All accepted offers are financially committed under contract. Please review the following details regarding payment options, deadlines, and associated fees:

### Payment Options:

The Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy Tuition is non-refundable. Families are strongly advised to consider purchasing insurance for unforeseen circumstances such as injury, job relocation, etc. Insurance can be purchased at [Registration Saver](#).

The Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy Team tuition offers payment options:

- Full Payment: Pay the entire tuition amount by November 15, 20xx, on the academy's website during registration.
- Payment Plan: with an added fee, the remaining balance may be paid through a 4-month payment plan: [ Nov 15, 20xx], [Dec 15, 20xx], [Jan 15, 20xx], and [Feb 15, 20xx].

### Delinquent Accounts:

- If an account becomes delinquent, it could result in the player's removal from the team roster. This includes all fees, such as tuition, tryout fees, etc.

#### Late Fee:

- A \$25.00 late fee may be assessed for late payments.

We appreciate the commitment of player families to fulfill the financial obligations promptly. If you have any questions, concerns, or require assistance with payments, please do not hesitate to contact us. Your cooperation ensures the smooth operation of the academy and the success of our players and teams.

## **Injuries**

At the Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy, we prioritize the safety and well-being of our players. While we make every effort to create a safe practice and play environment, we acknowledge that injuries can occur in any sport. Please review our injury policy:

#### Refund Policy for Injured Players:

- We do not issue refunds to injured players.

#### Attendance Expectations for Injured Players:

- Injured players are expected to continue attending practices until healed.
- We believe that maintaining engagement with the team can contribute to the player's overall experience and support their connection with the team.

#### Long-Term Injuries Consideration:

- Long-term injuries that remove a player from a team for most of the season will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- We understand that certain injuries may significantly impact a player's ability to participate, and we will work with the player and their family to find a suitable resolution.

Our aim is to support injured players throughout their recovery and provide a positive and inclusive environment. We appreciate the understanding and cooperation of players and their families in adhering to this injury policy. If you have specific concerns or questions related to an injury, please feel free to reach out to us for further assistance.

## PART IV: PARENT/ PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

### PARENT ROLE

At the Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy, we recognize the crucial role parents play in the development and success of club athletes. We understand the significant financial and time commitment parents make to support their children's participation in club volleyball. To ensure a positive and supportive environment, we have outlined some helpful reminders for parents:

#### Supportive Role:

- Be supportive of your player and the team.
- Allow the coaches to coach, trusting their expertise in guiding the players.

#### Cheerleading:

- Be your child's biggest cheerleader and fan, providing encouragement and positive reinforcement.

#### Avoid Gossip:

- Refrain from gossiping about other players, fostering a positive and inclusive team culture.

#### Promote Culture & Values:

- Promote and uphold the Driven Dragons culture and core values within the team and community.



### Communication:

- Encourage your child to communicate with the coaches, fostering a collaborative approach to addressing any concerns.

### Display Appropriate Behavior:

- Display appropriate behavior at all times, setting a positive example for your child and other team members.

### Keep Priorities in Check:

- Help your player maintain a healthy balance in priorities, emphasizing academics and personal growth alongside volleyball.

### Long-Term Perspective:

- Remember that your relationship with your children extends beyond their competitive volleyball days.

### Have Fun:

- Embrace and embody the value of fun, creating an enjoyable and positive experience for everyone involved.

Your active and positive involvement contributes significantly to the overall success and well-being of our players and teams. We appreciate your commitment to these guidelines and encourage an atmosphere of support and camaraderie within the Driven Dragons community.

## PEOPLE SUCCESS POLICY

At the Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy, we understand that concerns may arise from time to time, and we are committed to providing a constructive forum for resolution. Our **People Success Policy** outlines the process for addressing questions and concerns involving parents, players, and coaches. Here are the guidelines for navigating areas of concern:

## Reminders:

- Adhere to the "**48-hour rule**": Wait at least 48 hours after the final play of a tournament before raising any concerns. Violating this rule may negatively impact the parent or player.
- Encourage players to talk to their coaches about their role on the team or any struggles during the season during practice times and not during tournaments.

## Resolution Steps:

### Step 1: Parent Communicates to People Success Director:

- If a parent has concerns or issues, they should reach out via email to [PeopleSuccess@DrivenDragonsVBA.com](mailto:PeopleSuccess@DrivenDragonsVBA.com) and request a phone call or meeting.
- Include the team name and player name in the email. There is no need to detail the issue in the email; the People Success Director will address it during the conversation.
- In the email subject, include the words 'PeopleSuccess-[LastNameOfFamily/Player]' for proper response.

### Step 2: People Success Director Communicates to Coach:

- After the conversation or meeting with the parent, the People Success Director will speak to the coach about the issue or concern.
- The People Success Director will consider the coach's perspective and work to facilitate a solution to the case.
- Follow up with the parent and present the proposed solution.

### Step 3: Parent, Coach & People Success Director Meeting:

- If further action is required, a meeting will be scheduled with the Parent, Coach, and People Success Director to address and resolve any remaining issues.

We believe in open communication and collaboration to ensure a positive and successful experience for all involved. Your People Success Director is here to assist and facilitate the resolution process.

## Conclusion

Dear Driven Dragons Families,

As we embark on another exciting club season, we want to express our deep gratitude for being part of the Driven Dragons Volleyball Academy family. Founded by Jaime Lizarazu, our club has witnessed remarkable growth and success, evolving from two teams in our inaugural season to up to nine teams in our second year.

Throughout this journey, our unwavering focus has been on creating a positive and enriching experience for our coaches, players, and their families. Every decision we make – from choosing uniforms to selecting tournaments and planning team-building events – is driven by a commitment to the growth, development, and well-being of our players.

As a club, we understand the significance of the opportunities that volleyball creates for our daughters. Our expansion and the addition of new programs reflect our dedication to providing even more avenues for growth and excellence. We acknowledge that, like any journey, there may be occasional missteps, and we appreciate your understanding when they occur.

Our primary loyalty is to our players, and our goal is to offer them a transformative experience both on and off the court. We recognize the importance of getting everything right and are committed to continual improvement. Should any issues arise during the season, we assure you that we will address them promptly and effectively.

Thank you for entrusting us with the privilege of contributing to your daughter's journey. We cherish the opportunity to be a part of their growth as volleyball players and strong young women. We look forward to a season filled with learning, camaraderie, and success.

With gratitude,

Driven Dragons Leadership

Building Leaders and Champions On & Off the Court