



2024 Club Policies

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What is Club Volleyball?

Junior Olympic Volleyball is informally known as Club Volleyball or “Club”. It is an organized, nationwide system sanctioned by USA Volleyball that allows young athletes the opportunity to receive advanced training and compete at a high level of play independent of their school seasons. In addition, players benefit from the chance of exposure to college coaches and potential scholarship opportunities for those that desire to pursue them.

Who is Southern Swing?

Southern Swing Volleyball Club (“Southern Swing”) was founded in 2006 for the purpose of providing young ladies in Victoria and the surrounding areas with the opportunity to participate in the sport of volleyball at a competitive level separate and apart from their local school programs. The Club operates under the Lone Star Region of USA Volleyball and supports Club volleyball teams for girls age 11 through 18. Try-outs for these teams are held on an annual basis and are conducted by age group with team selections being made based on skill level, experience and positions needed. Girls participating in Southern Swing’s Club program will experience a high level of play in a competitive environment and will have the opportunity to play some of the best teams in their age groups from around the state.

The mission of Southern Swing Volleyball is “to promote the development of discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship and strong character through the sport of competitive volleyball in the south Texas area”. The Club is under the direction of Coach Jodie Jenkins and is proud to be entering its 18th season of service in the south Texas area. We look forward to continuing our tradition of developing discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship and character through the sport of volleyball.

Competitive Philosophy

Southern Swing was established for the purpose of allowing young athletes to participate in the sport of volleyball at a competitive level. It is important that coaches, players and parents understand that this does not mean that all players will get equal play time at tournaments nor does it mean that all players will necessarily play the position that they wish to play or that they are most accustomed to on their school teams. In every tournament situation, coaches will use the players that are available to them in the manner that they choose to maximize the team’s performance that day and give their team the best chance of winning the tournament. The line-up may very well change from tournament to tournament or even from match to match during the day.

If there is a difference of opinion between a player and a coach (or a parent and a coach) during a tournament, **DO NOT** address the coach during the tournament or talk among yourselves in the stands. Instead, honor the “**24 Hour Rule**” and wait 24 hours before addressing the coach. This allows for reflection and a cool down period before the issue at hand is addressed. Negativity is contagious and will cause a team to lose a tournament faster than any coaching decision or missed play. Coaches should be contacted away from the tournament environment and a time should be set aside to discuss any concerns. If that does not resolve the situation, the parent may request to discuss the matter with the Southern Swing Club Director at a time that is convenient for everyone. We will make every effort to resolve the situation quickly and in the best interest of everyone involved.

Both coaches and players will make mistakes during the course of the season. **It IS NOT important that everyone agrees on every line-up or every rotation; it IS important that all players and parents respect their coach’s decisions in such matters and be supportive of every player on the court at any given time. We DO NOT embrace a “win at all costs” philosophy; however, winning every tournament while maintaining good sportsmanship is the ultimate goal.**

Academic Standards

Southern Swing is in no way affiliated with any public or private school program; however, we strongly support the academic success of our players. We will not require players to submit grade reports for review in order to participate in the club; however, we encourage parents to notify us if a player’s grades begin to suffer and require special attention. We will make a reasonable effort to assist students in this area. In trying to obtain a scholarship at the collegiate level, strong academics and outstanding grades will create more opportunities for the athlete and maximize their ability to succeed.

Try-Outs

The Lone Star Region club season typically runs from December through May followed by the Junior National Championships in June and July of each year for qualifying teams. Try-outs will be held in July of each year for Regional teams and in the fall of each year for regular Club teams.

REGIONAL teams will participate in a longer club season including several 2-day tournaments and will end their season at the Lone Star Junior Regional Tournament with the possibility of qualifying for Nationals. As a result, the fee associated with Regional teams will be significantly higher than for a regular Club team and may vary from year to year. In the event that a Regional team qualifies for a bid to Nationals, the bid must be

accepted and additional expense will be required over and above the Regional team fee set at the beginning of the season. All of these things should be carefully considered before trying out for a Regional team. Any players not selected for a Regional team are eligible to try out for a traditional Club team at try-outs in September without registering or incurring any additional try-out fee. They should simply let us know that they intend to participate in the Club team try-out so that we can prepare accordingly.

CLUB teams will participate in a shorter, traditional season including all one-day tournaments plus the two-day Cross Court Classic tournament in Houston (traditionally held in March of each year) to end their season.

Players should register and pay for try-outs through the Southern Swing online registration portal and complete an online waiver of liability by way of electronic signature. An email with instructions for completing the online waiver will be provided at the conclusion of the registration process. The registration fee will go toward covering the cost of facilities and administrative costs associated with the try-outs.

Try-outs for the 2024 club season will be held at the Victoria College Sports Center on the following dates:

15s Regional - Sunday, July 23, 2023 - 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

16s Regional - Sunday, July 23, 2023 - 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

17s Regional - Sunday, July 23, 2023 - 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

14s Club - Sunday, September 10, 2023 - 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

15s Club - Sunday, September 10, 2023 - 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

16s, 17s, 18s Club - Sunday, September 10, 2023 - 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

11s, 12s Club - Sunday, September 17, 2023 - 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

13s Club - Sunday, September 17, 2023 - 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

In the event that you are unable to participate in try-outs at your scheduled time and still want to be considered for a club team, you must make arrangements for a private try-out IN ADVANCE. You may do so by contacting us by e-mail at ssvball@yahoo.com or by text at (361) 210-6876. Players trying out early must still register online, complete a release of liability and pay a non-refundable try-out fee.

For Regional teams, the try-out fee will be \$40 for all players registered and paid on or before July 9 and \$50 for those registered after July 9 and all walk-ins.

For Club teams, the try-out fee will be \$40 for all players registered and paid on or before September 1 and \$50 for those registered after September 1 and all walk-ins.

Players should attend try-outs based on their individual date of birth as defined below for the purposes of participation in the 2024 Lone Star Region club season:

- 11 & under = players born 07/01/12 through 06/30/13
- 12 & under = players born 07/01/11 through 06/30/12
- 13 & under = players born 07/01/10 through 06/30/11
- 14 & under = players born 07/01/09 through 06/30/10
- 15 & under = players born 07/01/08 through 06/30/09
- 16 & under = players born 07/01/07 through 06/30/08
- 17 & under = players born 07/01/06 through 06/30/07
- 18 & under = players born 07/01/05 through 06/30/06

Players younger than age 11 are welcome to participate in try-outs and should do so with the 11 & under age group. If a player younger than age 11 is selected to participate in the club season, they will be placed on a team of girls in the 11 & under category.

Once try-outs are complete, all players will be notified by email of the team they have made. Parents of the player will have a specified period of time to accept or decline the position that their athlete is offered. Everyone will be contacted regardless of whether they are selected for a team or not. If you have not been notified of your status after a week has passed, you may contact us by e-mail at ssvball@yahoo.com or by text at (361) 210-6876. Players invited to participate on a Southern Swing club team should be prepared to attend a mandatory parent/player meeting and pay all fees associated with club participation in a timely manner as described below under “Financial Information”. Players will be notified of the date, time and location of the parent meeting after try-outs are complete and all teams have been finalized.

Teams

For the 2024 Lone Star Region club season, teams will be selected for each age group based on the age definitions provided under “Try-Outs” above.

Southern Swing reserves the right to eliminate and/or add teams as necessary. In the event that a particular age group does not have a sufficient number of girls to form a complete team, that age group may be eliminated or select players from that age group may be assigned to the next older age bracket at the sole discretion of the coaches and the club director. In addition, if a particular age group has a very large number of girls that are of a sufficient skill level to be selected, those players may be used to form two teams at the sole discretion of the coaches and the club director.

Players WILL NOT be allowed to move up to a more advanced age bracket at the request of the player or the parent. Moving a player from one age group to another is strictly the decision of the coaches and the club director. Parents are not to contact a coach asking for play time or practice time on other teams beside their own. The Club Director and team coach will make decisions based on a team's need for additional players. Players will consistently encounter girls of their own age at club tournaments that have a great deal of experience and skill. We believe that stronger teams are formed when the girls play together over time at the appropriate level for their age.

Financial Information

Fees charged to participate in the Southern Swing club program for the 2024 season are based on the anticipated tournament schedules for each team and the estimated cost of uniforms, equipment, facility rental, coaching expense and USAV membership.

Fees for traditional (NOT Regional) teams for the 2024 club season are as follows:

- 11s - \$1,800 (5 one-day tournaments, fall league, Cross Court Classic)
- 12s - \$1,800 (5 one-day tournaments, fall league, Cross Court Classic)
- 13s - \$1,800 (6 one-day tournaments & Cross Court Classic)
- 13s - \$1,800 (6 one-day tournaments & Cross Court Classic)
- 14s - \$1,800 (6 one-day tournaments & Cross Court Classic)
- 15s - \$1,800 (6 one-day tournaments & Cross Court Classic)
- 16s - \$1,800 (6 one-day tournaments & Cross Court Classic)
- 17s - \$1,800 (6 one-day tournaments & Cross Court Classic)
- 18s - \$1,800 (6 one-day tournaments & Cross Court Classic)

The designated club fees for each team cover the players' uniform package, one practice jersey, one travel shirt, one warm-up shirt, coaches' salaries and travel expense, facilities rental, tournament entry fees, USAV/Lone Star Region membership fees and administrative costs. Travel expense for athletes related to all tournaments (including transportation, meals and hotel expense) is the responsibility of the athlete.

For Regional teams, the annual fee will be due in four installments and will be disclosed and discussed prior to try-outs in July.

For Club teams, the annual club fee will be due in four installments as follows:

- \$600 - due at the initial parent meeting or by 10/01/23
- \$400 - due on or before 11/01/23
- \$400 - due on or before 12/01/23
- \$400 - due on or before 01/01/24

For Regional teams, the annual fee for the 2024 season has been set at \$3,400 and will be due in four installments as follows:

- \$1,000 - due on or before 08/01/23
- \$800 - due on or before 09/01/23
- \$800 - due on or before 10/01/23
- \$800 - due on or before 11/01/23

All club fees must be paid in full prior to the player attending the first tournament. Anyone that has a remaining balance from previous club seasons will not be allowed to participate in any future events (i.e. camps, leagues, etc.) until those fees are paid in full. Acceptable payment methods, applicable fees and payment reminders are addressed separately in the Financial Responsibility Contract that will be provided to each player upon acceptance of a position on a team for the 2024 club season.

Once a player has participated in a tournament, no refund of fees will be made if they choose to withdraw. In addition, refunds will not be given in the event that a tournament must be cancelled and cannot be rescheduled. If, for whatever reason your family experiences unforeseen circumstances, please contact Southern Swing so we can work to set up an alternate plan for payment.

Sponsorships

Players may earn all or any portion of their club fees by securing sponsorships from local business, friends or family members. Any checks for sponsorships that are received should be made payable to Southern Swing Volleyball, not to the individual player. This will allow the sponsoring business or individual to deduct the amount of the sponsorship for tax purposes since Southern Swing is a qualified 501(c)3 organization under IRS regulations.

Sponsorships will be recognized on the practice jersey and/or website in levels of support as follows:

- \$1,000 or more - GOLD
- \$500 to \$999 - SILVER
- \$250 to \$499 - BRONZE
- \$100 to \$249 - CLUB

Sponsorships of \$250 or more that are received prior to October 25, 2023, will be recognized by placing the donor's logo on the 2024 practice jersey as well as on our website on the "Sponsors" page. Any sponsorships of \$250 or more received after the October 25 deadline will still be recognized on the website but will not appear on the sponsor shirt. This is simply to allow us time to have shirts printed and ready for practices in mid-November.

Sponsor cards will be provided at the parent meeting following try-outs for anyone interested in using them. In the event that a potential sponsor requests some type of form letter or formal request from the player before sponsoring, please let us know. We do have a letter available for you to use for that purpose. We want to make sure that all correspondence that may be perceived as originating from our organization is consistent and professional including the use of logos and letterhead. In the event that a business requests our tax ID number please contact us by e-mail and we will provide the number to you.

Uniforms

All players are expected to wear the proper uniform and equipment to all practices and Lone Star Region club tournaments. The complete uniform consists of the following:

- Black volleyball style spandex shorts
- Black shorts for covering spandex
- Black or white sports bra
- Black crew socks
- Black knee pads
- Volleyball shoes
- Ankle supports

Items Provided to ALL TEAMS as part of the club fee include:

- Jersey
- Backpack
- Practice/Sponsor shirt (to be worn to all practices and local events)
- Travel shirt
- Warm-up shirt

Addition Items Provided to REGIONAL TEAMS as part of the club fee include:

- Jacket
- Knee pads
- Socks
- Shoes

Although we do not require players to wear ankle supports, we strongly recommend that each player wear them at both practices and tournaments. Teams will play several physically demanding matches during each tournament and will experience fatigue and soreness that may lead to injuries if they are not well protected. Ankle supports are a great tool in helping to prevent ankle injuries before they occur and lead to permanent damage.

Remember that, while in uniform, players are representing not only Southern Swing but also their communities and their families. In the gym, it is appropriate for players to wear their uniforms without sweatpants or travel shirts; however, while outside the gym (i.e. traveling, in a restaurant or running errands after a game) all players should wear their travel shirts and shorts or sweat pants over their spandex shorts and jerseys to maintain a modest appearance. **Players and their families will be able to purchase additional Southern Swing apparel to wear to tournaments at the beginning of the club season. This will be the only time of the year to purchase such items. In the event we are lacking your size, we will be happy order your size with payment in advance.**

Injury or Illness

The coaches and staff of Southern Swing will make every effort to provide a safe playing environment for your child and to prevent injuries. However, like any sport, volleyball carries with it the potential for accident or injury. Players must be attentive to their coaches and teammates in order to help avoid situations where injury could occur. Parent, please encourage each of your players to be aware of their surroundings and participate in this process.

In the event that a player does become ill or suffers an injury during a practice or tournament, she should inform her coach as soon as possible so that appropriate medical attention can be sought. If a player misses a practice or tournament due to an illness or injury that requires a doctor's attention, she must present a written release from the doctor in order to resume normal physical activities. **Players SHOULD NOT play with an injury. This could result in permanent damage that could have easily been prevented.**

If an athlete is injured within the season, they are still required to attend practice if they intend to continue playing for Swing once they are released by their doctor. This allows the athlete to continue to learn the information the Coach is giving the team.

If your child has been exposed to COVID-19 (or any contagious illness) or they have ANY related symptoms, please notify your coach immediately and do not send them to practice or tournaments. Our top concern is the health and safety of all of our coaches, staff and athletes and we ask that you help us out by keeping your child at home if there is any doubt.

Practices

Practice times and locations will be determined based on the availability of facilities and will be scheduled for all teams on set days if possible. It is our goal for all teams to have

two scheduled practices per week regardless of their age; however, as teams engage in tournaments this may change from time to time. Teams will not practice on a Sunday when they have attended a tournament on Saturday of the same weekend. Specific information regarding practices will be posted on the website on the “Practice Times” page. Please check there often for updates.

Players are expected to attend all practices. We recognize that emergencies do occur; however, out of respect for your coach and your teammates, players are expected to give notice directly to the appropriate coach as soon as they are aware that they will be absent.

With respect to MISSED PRACTICES - there will be a designated conditioning workout that all players who miss practice must complete. Conditioning will be modified to be age-appropriate for each team across the club and must be completed once for each missed practice. Conditioning for missed practices must be arranged with the coach in advance and should be completed prior to the next tournament. **An excessive number of missed practices (as determined by the coach) may result in the loss of play time as athletes who are repeatedly absent are miss out on valuable instruction and team interaction.**

Players should arrive on time, completely dressed and ready to begin at the designated time. Knee pads, ankle braces and the Southern Swing practice jersey should be worn to ALL PRACTICES. All players will receive one practice shirt as a part of their club fee and will have the opportunity to purchase an additional shirt if getting laundry done in time for a second weekly practice is a problem. If a player loses the practice jersey that they receive as part of their club fee they will be expected to purchase a replacement.

Cell phones must be turned off and left in the athlete’s bag during practice. Coaches will be working in a structured practice environment designed to teach and perfect the skills expected at each age level. Players should be attentive and treat their coaches and teammates with respect at all times. Coaches are also expected to treat their players with respect; however, misbehavior during practices will not be tolerated and consequences will be put into place.

Coaches are never to be alone in the gym with a single athlete. This is in the best interest of both coaches and athletes.

Tournaments

Southern Swing will make every effort to secure the number of tournaments identified for each team. However, the registration process is quite involved and tournaments fill up very quickly. We ask that everyone be patient as we work through scheduling issues and

try to complete the registration process at each level. On occasion, a particular team may not be able to participate in the identified number of tournaments. In the event that a tournament is cancelled or is unavailable for some reason beyond our control, no refunds will be given. Additional information regarding tournament schedules will be discussed at the parent meeting required for all players selected for a team and their parents.

One-day tournaments will be scheduled for Saturdays whenever possible. We strongly feel that playing tournaments on Saturdays allows families that wish to attend worship services on Sunday mornings to do so without interference. However, be aware that some teams will participate in multi-day tournaments that may include Sunday. The availability of tournaments will also determine our ability to schedule on Saturdays.

Most tournaments begin at 8:00 a.m. with coaches' meetings at 7:45 a.m. or earlier. Even when our teams are not scheduled to play at 8:00 a.m. it is likely that they will be scheduled to call lines or provide referees. It is important for each player to make arrangements to arrive at the designated tournament facility on time. **Hotels, meals and other travel expenses incurred by players and their families are not covered in the club fee.** In many situations, we may not know the exact location or pool schedule for a given tournament until the day before we are scheduled to play. It is important that you check the website for updated information and be flexible in your planning. In addition, there may be a rare event that causes a tournament to be relocated or rescheduled at the last minute due to circumstances beyond our control. We will make every effort to avoid those situations whenever possible.

Transportation to tournaments and practices are the responsibility of the athlete's parent. No coach should ever be asked to transport an athlete due to liability issues. Coaches' travel to practice and tournaments is not the responsibility of Southern Swing. Other options for rides include fellow teammates and parents of Southern Swing athletes.

No electronic devices are allowed in the gym during tournaments. Players will not be allowed to go to their cars during the day to use their cell phones or listen to music. If this is a problem, please leave these items at home to avoid a tempting situation. Coaches need to be able to readily get the attention of their players as sometimes the timing and order of events change quickly. Tournaments are also a time to be spent getting to know your teammates and coach and to watch the teams that you will be competing against during the day. If you must speak to your parents and they are not with you at a tournament, please let your coach know and he or she will gladly make arrangements to assist you. If athletes fail to comply with our technology policy, the coach reserves the right to implement a consequence at the next practice.

All players are expected to eat a healthy meal and be in bed at a reasonable hour the night before a tournament. In addition, players should eat breakfast before the tournament begins and bring healthy snacks and plenty of water or sports drinks (no carbonation) to consume during the day. Some facilities have concession stands; however, there are many tournaments during which the players will not get more than a short break so families are strongly encouraged to pack ice chests with lunch supplies so that food is readily available. **Players will not be allowed to leave the tournament facility during the day so please plan accordingly.**

Each team will be required to keep score, call lines and referee during tournaments. For teams ages 11 through 14, players cannot serve as referees and scorekeepers. EVERY TEAM in this age group will be required to have 2 adults trained as referees and 2 adults trained as scorekeepers to fill these required roles. Coaches and assistant coaches on every team will also be trained and certified. Southern Swing will provide the necessary training and certification locally for all parents that serve in these roles. The cost of mandatory USAV memberships and background checks will also be covered by Southern Swing. Teams in the 15 through 18 ages divisions may use players in the role of referee and scorekeeper. In fairness to the other tournament participants we must do the best job possible when calling lines and keeping score.

Parents - please be aware that until we have adequate parent participation to cover the required responsibilities related to referee and scorekeeping duties, we will not register your child's teams for tournaments. Having the appropriate individuals in these roles is a requirement for our participation in USAV sanctioned tournaments and we simply must comply.

When a team is eliminated from tournament play, they are generally required to call lines and keep score for the next match before they are allowed to leave the tournament. **In order to be fair to everyone, all players are required to stay in the gym while Southern Swing is calling lines and keeping score. Parents, you may leave if necessary ... your players may not.** If parents must leave before the team is finished calling lines and scorekeeping, please make arrangements for someone to take your daughter home after the match is over.

Website and Team Photos

A website for Southern Swing is maintained on an ongoing basis and may be accessed by visiting the web address "www.southernswing-volleyball.com" at any time. Please familiarize yourself with this site. **It will be the primary tool for communicating with parents and players during the season regarding tournament schedules, results and practice times as well as upcoming events such as camps and leagues.**

One of the most popular parts of the website is the “Photo Album” page. We strongly encourage parents and friends to take pictures of the girls at tournaments and e-mail them to us at ssvball@yahoo.com so that we can post them on the site for everyone to see. In addition, all players and their coaches will be required to participate in team photos. The photos will be taken in Victoria at a location and time to be announced. These photos will be taken at no cost to the players and are strictly for the purpose of obtaining a good quality photo of each team for posting on the Southern Swing website along with team rosters.

Please note that by signing the attached “Parent’s Code of Conduct” and “Player’s Code of Conduct” you are acknowledging that your athlete is allowed to appear on Southern Swing’s website and social media pages in team photos and candid photos taken at various tournaments, camps and other club events.

Social Media

With the growing popularity of social media, Southern Swing finds it necessary to address how athletes and coaches should communicate and represent our club on the internet/social media.

Today’s society is flooded with many ways to communicate via social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, SnapChat, etc.). All parties associated with Southern Swing Volleyball Club need to understand the impact their social media presence has on the organization and their team. Acceptable social media conduct is addressed separately in the Parent and Player Codes of conduct that will be provided to each player upon acceptance of a position on a team for the 2024 club season.