



MARYLAND VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM

2009-2010 Season Handbook

November 8, 2009

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Introduction

The Maryland Volleyball Program (MVP) provides opportunities for boys to compete in USA Volleyball Junior Olympic competition at local, regional, and national levels. MVP was first established in 1986 and has competed in every JOV National Championship since 1987.

We are dedicated to providing quality training beyond what is available through the school systems, and competition at local, regional, and national levels. This competitive athletic experience can enhance social development, contribute to mental and physical health, and teach the values of teamwork, responsibility, self-discipline, and self-motivation.

It is our sincere desire to provide a solid foundation of fundamentals to enable participants to develop, not only as players, but also as persons. Given this base, we hope that these youths will continue playing well beyond their Junior Olympic years. Volleyball is truly a lifetime sport.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to familiarize parents, players, and sponsors with MVP and identify the policies and procedures that govern how MVP is run.

Junior Olympic Volleyball Background

Believe it or not, volleyball is a sport with an American origin. William G. Morgan, a YMCA physical director, in Holyoke, Massachusetts, created it in 1895 as a less strenuous alternative to basketball. It is interesting to note that basketball was also created about the same time in nearby Springfield, Massachusetts. The disparity between the popularity of the two sports in this country is not reflected on a worldwide basis. Volleyball is one of the most popular sports in the world.

The United States Volleyball Association was founded in 1928 and is the National Governing Body associated with the United States Olympic Committee for the sport. USA Volleyball (www.usavolleyball.org) has divided the Nation into over 40 Regions for organized competition during the year, which culminates in the U.S. Open Volleyball Championships for adults. Championships are conducted for the best teams in Men's and Women's divisions ranging from Open, AA, A, BB, and B. Competitions are also held for various age group divisions ranging from 30 and over to 75 and over. This Region is known as the Chesapeake Region (www.chrva.org) and encompasses Maryland, the District of Columbia, Delaware, and Northern Virginia.

Competition is also provided under a Junior Olympic Volleyball (JOV) Program for high school age and younger participants ranging from 12 and under to 18 and under divisions. Under this program, USA Volleyball sponsors teams and individuals that participate in High Performance Camps, Youth National teams, Junior National teams, International Junior competitions and the JOV National Championships.

USA Volleyball also sponsors within each Region instructional camps and clinics for the development of club directors, coaches, players, and officials. Several USA Volleyball

Coaching Accreditation Program Level I and II courses have been held at the University of Maryland over the past number of years.

MVP History

This is our **twenty-first** season where we plan to take multiple teams to the USA Volleyball's JOV National Championships. Since our first JOV Nationals in 1987 in Albuquerque, we have seen the event grow in the number of teams participating and in the level of play by the teams. The challenge for us has always been to develop teams that can compete at the local, regional, and JOV National level. It has also always been our goal to instill within the participants an appreciation and love for the sport. We firmly subscribe to the belief that volleyball is truly a lifetime sport that can be enjoyed well after the JOV age.

We have focused our program on junior boys because of the lack of opportunities currently available for boys. In contrast to girl's volleyball, the number of college scholarship opportunities are not only very limited, but the dollar amounts are significantly lower (NCAA only allows 4.5 full scholarships for men's teams as compared with 12 for women's teams. There are only about 60 varsity men's teams and only about 20 of those are Division I.). We will do our best to prepare our players and put them in the best environment to showcase their abilities to college recruits who will be present at various tournaments. Appendix B provides a complete list of past players who went on to play collegiate ball.

Please realize that because of the vast pool of boys to choose from and the limited number of scholarship opportunities, the Division I universities can be very selective. If the gender equity issue can be resolved without overwhelming the budgets of universities' athletic departments, we anticipate an exponential growth in men's varsity programs across the country. There are also opportunities at the Division II and III levels where there are some 60+ collegiate men's programs. The increasing number of high school boys currently playing as well as the thriving men's collegiate club volleyball program is driving this. This would certainly lead to more scholarship opportunities for boys in volleyball. And of course, we will provide assistance to program participants in continuing to play volleyball beyond their "JOV years". Many opportunities exist to participate whether it's through outdoor events (grass or beach), Chinese 9-man, and adult USA Volleyball competition.

Learning the right way to play the game at an early age offers easier access to these avenues of competition. It is satisfying to see so many of the alumni from our program continuing to play at high levels.

Program Policies

What rules we have, are strictly enforced. Otherwise, the volunteers that we have would be inundated by exceptions. The following rules will be strictly enforced:

- Players in the program come from many different backgrounds and schools. The players are required to eliminate any inter-school rivalries and personality conflicts.
- Participants are required to abstain from the use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs. Participants in violation of this policy are subject to immediate disciplinary actions that may include immediate expulsion from the program.
- Players are **strongly recommended** to maintain an eligibility status for their respective school systems. If a player becomes ineligible to participate because of grades for his school, it will be the parent's decision to determine eligibility for MVP.
- Dues must be paid promptly. If financial commitments are too burdensome, please contact the program Director to discuss options.

Violation of rules during **any** tournaments (including East Coast championships or USAV Nationals) may result in the player being sent home immediately at their expense.

Please read and understand the [USA Volleyball Participant Code of Conduct Form](#). A copy is available for download from the MVP website. Please be aware that the MVP will abide by any punishments imposed by USAV.

Roles and Responsibilities

The following sections identify the roles and responsibilities for all MVP members/participants.

MVP Board of Directors

There are a total of five members that comprise the Board of Directors. These members are entrusted with providing the vision and ability to grow/improve MVP. The Board will also help maintain the goals and philosophy of the Program. The primary responsibilities of the Board are, but not limited to:

- Select Program Director
- Maintain/ensure program philosophy is maintained
- Provide insight to grow and improve the program
- Resolve extenuating circumstances

The time commitment of a Board member is relatively low, roughly 10-20 hours per season.

Program Director

The Program Director provides the overall management of Program activities. The primary responsibilities of the program director are:

- Coordinate and manage all Program members
- Resolve or assist in resolving any issues
- Aide in performing program tasks (coaching, administrative functions, etc.), as needed
- Aide in player selection and team formation
- Create program budget
- Pay bills
- Reimburse coaches and coordinators for items paid
- Publish/post financial records
- Approves purchase requests from coordinators
- Purchasing and managing uniform inventory
- Purchasing balls, ball carts, and other equipment
- Taking orders and purchasing warm-ups, bags, and shoes
- Controlling inventory of equipment between practices, tournaments, MVP teams, and University of Maryland men's club team
- Coordinate with coaches to ensure equipment is available for each practice and tournament

The time commitment of the Program Director is significant. A Program Director will likely spend over 10+ hours per week managing the Program.

Registration Coordinator

The Registration Coordinator registers all teams/players with USAV and for all tournaments throughout the year. The primary responsibilities of the registration coordinator include:

- Registering program with USAV
- Registering teams, players, chaperones, and coaches with USAV
- Submitting background check information for coaches/chaperones
- Adding new players throughout season
- Registering MVP with the various online registration systems (Advanced Event Systems, SignUptoPlay.com, etc.)
- Registering for tournaments as requested by Program Director and/or coaches
- Coordinate with coaches, team liaison, and communication coordinator to determine player availability

The time commitment for the Registration Coordinator is quite heavy at the beginning of the season (~40+ hours). Once the season begins in full swing, the coordinator will spend roughly ~10 hours per month ensuring that all teams are properly registered in all tournaments.

Facilities Coordinator

The Facilities Coordinator acquires gym space for the Program. The primary responsibilities of the facilities coordinator include:

- Renting gym space for practices
- Renting gym space for tournaments
- Setting up practice times
- Coordinate with Communications coordinator and Website coordinator for distributing practice times; notification of closures

The time commitment is significant at the beginning of the season and during mid-season when 2nd half requests are due for Montgomery County gym rentals. During other times, the commitment is relatively minimal, perhaps ~5 hours per month.

Fundraiser Coordinator

The Fundraising Coordinator is responsible for providing the Program and players with the fundraising tasks to offset travel and program costs. The primary responsibilities of the fundraiser coordinator include:

- Researching and selecting fundraising methods
- Recording individual and “team” amounts raised
- Coordinate with Financial Coordinator on amounts generated, and by whom.

Tournament Coordinator

The Tournament Coordinator is responsible for hosting and running all MVP-run tournaments. The primary responsibilities of the tournament coordinator include:

- Coordinating with University of Maryland men’s club team on tournament logistics (dates, which gyms, number of courts, procedures for set-up/tear-down/clean-up, materials/supplies, etc).

- Submitting all required paperwork to CHRVA before and after tournaments.
- Ordering awards/trophies.
- Coordinating with Equipment Coordinator to obtain game balls.
- Managing costs, expenses, and fees (e.g., referees, materials/supplies).
- Hosting/running MVP tournaments (day of)
- Collect registration forms and fees
- Advertising tournaments
- Networking with other clubs/regions to increase participation for future tournaments

Communication/Policy Coordinator

The Communication/Policy Coordinator is responsible for distributing program information to all members. The primary responsibilities of the communication/policy coordinator include:

- Sending out program related emails to coaches, parents, individual teams, etc.
- Coordinate parent meetings
- Coordinate player meetings
- Enforcing/maintaining MVP Code of Conduct
- Maintain contact list
- Work with other coordinators to distribute information as needed (e.g., last minute practice changes/cancellations, travel meeting times/locations)

The time commitment for this role is light during the season. We estimate roughly 1 hour per week during the main season (January through July).

Website Coordinator

The website Coordinator is responsible for maintaining the MVP website (www.mvpvolleyball.net). This is a pivotal role within the program as all information will be distributed through the MVP website. The primary responsibilities of the website coordinator include:

- Maintaining information posted on the website
- Work with coaches and facilities coordinator to post practice times
- Work with coaches to post tournaments
- Work with coaches to post tournament results
- Work with other coordinators to post club-related information.

The time commitment for this role is fairly significant. We estimate roughly ~15 hours per month.

Coaches

The Coaches are responsible for coaching!! The MVP coaches are the heart and soul of our program. These volunteers put in countless hours to coach during practices and tournaments.

The primary responsibilities of Coaches include:

- Run practices for team
- Coach team during tournaments
- Record ALL tournament results
- Provide results to website coordinator
- Assist Chaperones in managing players when needed
- Assist other coordinators on registration, travel arrangements, uniforms, shoes, etc
- Maintaining team paperwork (Medical waivers, team rosters, etc.) as required by USAV.

The time commitment for coaches is significant. These *volunteers* will contribute over 40 hours per month for each team.

Team Manager

The Team Manager is a vital role within the Program. This role should be filled by one or more of the parents on the team. The Team Manager is responsible for coordinating day-to-day logistics for the team. The primary responsibilities of the Team Manager include:

- Determining whether players can play in a tournament
- Communication liaison between Program and team players/parents
- Notify Coaches of any player absences at practices or tournaments
- Assist Coaches in contacting parent(s) in case of emergency
- Organize meal logistics from either identifying local places to eat or couriering to tournament site in the event of limited break times.
- Booking hotels and making initial room assignments
- Booking plane tickets
- Renting cars
- Coordinating rides for “local” tournaments
- Assist in coordinating fundraising activities for a given team
- Delegate responsibilities to team members and chaperones

In the event there are no Team Manager volunteers, these responsibilities will fall on the individual team coaches. However, this will negatively impact the quality of coaching provided to the team.

The time commitment required of a Team Manager is significant throughout the season. We would estimate roughly ~10 hours per month coordinating events and activities for the team.

Tournament Chaperones

Tournament Chaperones are responsible for managing teams at tournaments. This role may be filled by the Team Manager. However, in order to share some of the responsibilities and burden among parents, we hope that there will be multiple chaperones per team. The primary responsibilities of tournament chaperones include:

- Ensure team rules / curfews are maintained

- Ensure players represent MVP positively
- Know where the players are when not on the court
- Ensuring safety of players

Players

Players are responsible for positively representing MVP. The primary responsibilities of players include:

- Working tournament matches as delegated by Team Captains
- Aiding Chaperones and Coaches as requested
- Looking out for your teammates.
- Acting responsible at all times
- Inform Team Captain, Coaches, Team Parents, and Teammates whether they can attend practices/tournaments
- Respond to coaching queries promptly

Coaching Philosophy / Team Goals

This section aims to cover the MVP coaching philosophy and how each team will be run. The MVP coaching philosophy is established by the MVP Board of Directors. For any questions or concerns, please contact the MVP Director.

General Philosophies

The general philosophy is that we will provide the best volleyball training to players while participating in the program (during practices, travel, and competition). Our objective is to enable players to develop both athletically and ultimately into responsible adults.

It is our goal to have all teams (with the exception of the 14's and 12's) play in two tournaments per month beginning in January and ending in May. Our season culminates in participation of JOV nationals in early July.

Team Goals

Team goals will vary from season to season. Coaches for each team will identify the goals at the beginning of the boy's tournament season in January.

The over arching team goal is to play at the highest level possible. To achieve this goal, coaches will be playing the best players and the best lineups as they see fit for qualifying tournaments and at nationals. However, during the regular season and non-qualifying tournaments, coaches will attempt distribute reasonable playing time evenly to ensure everyone has a chance to develop.

Playing time during a tournament is at the sole discretion of the head coach. If there are any questions/concerns in this regard, please contact the MVP Director.

Teams Supported

For the 2009-2010 season, we will be supporting a total of six teams:

- Two 18's team (MVP Red 18-1 and MVP 18-2)
- One 17's team (MVP White 17-1)
- One 16's team (MVP Black 16-1)
- One 15's teams (MVP Gold 15-1)
- One 14's teams (MVP 14-1)

Communication

The Maryland Volleyball Program website (www.mvpvolleyball.net) will be used as the primary method for disseminating information to all players, parents, and coaches. If there are any questions that you have about upcoming tournaments, practices, fundraisers, etc., check the website first. Please ensure that you check the MVP website **AT LEAST** twice per week (Sunday and Wednesday).

If the website does not answer your question, please do not hesitate to contact your team coach or team manager.

Finally, for any other issues/questions that the coach or team manager cannot answer, feel free to contact the Program Director: Johnny Hsiung (johnny.hsiung@gmail.com) or his mobile (240.353.6365).

Financial Commitment

The financial commitment to participate with the MVP can be fairly significant. This section provides participants and parents with an idea of the costs associated with the MVP. It also provides some guidelines as to the minimum costs as well as potential additional costs if a particular team goes to JO nationals or wishes to travel for out of region tournaments.

The following is a list of fixed costs during the season that are distributed evenly to all MVP participants:

- Gym fees for practice (based on individual team usage)
- USAV player and team registration
- USAV coaches registration
- Coaches certification fees (e.g. - IMPACT, CAP, background checks, etc.)
- MVP accounting fees
- Volleyball equipment (e.g. - balls, ball carts, ball bags, antennae, etc.)
- Uniforms

The following is a list of costs that are charged to specific teams/individual based on participation (e.g., for East Coast Championships, JOV Nationals, multi-day tournaments, etc):

- Hotel fees for individual players, coaches, and chaperones
- Airfare for individual players, coaches, and chaperones
- Meal costs for individual players
- Car/van rental and gas/tolls
- Gym rental fees for extra practices
- Tournament entry fees

Dues will be collected on fixed dates as identified in the following sections. Dues are collected based on the estimated costs for the current season. The estimated costs cover all of the items identified above. At the end of the season (after JOV nationals), a final invoice will be sent covering any additional costs not covered with the dues paid.

Note – We are willing to open our books to anyone who is interested. Please contact the MVP Director if you wish to review the accounting records.

Dues Schedule

Based on the cost for previous seasons, the following is the dues schedule that covers the estimated total costs as identified above.

All dues must be made payable to: **Maryland Volleyball Program**

Please give each dues payment to the head coach or team manager to the next practice following the Due Date.

Dues / Fees	Due Date	18-1	17-1	18-1 and 16-1	15-1	14-1	Practice Players
Pre-Season Dues	November 15 th (First practice)	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
2nd Dues installment	January 1 st , 2009	\$400	\$400	\$300	\$400	-	-
3rd Dues installment	April 1 st , 2009	\$400	\$400	-	\$400	-	-
4th Dues installment	June 1 st , 2009	\$400	\$400	\$300	\$400	\$400	-
End of Season Reconciliation – Payment of outstanding individual player balances	August 15 th , 2009	\$400	??	??	??	??	??
Minimum Commitment Total	-	\$2,000	\$1,600	\$1,000	\$1,600	\$800	\$400

The minimum costs identified include travel expenditures for three out of state tournaments (e.g. – Penn State Nittany, East Coast Championships, and JO Nationals [for teams attending]). There may be additional costs for teams that travel to any additional out of region tournaments.

For the 12's/14's, the costs identified above cover two out of statement tournaments (e.g. – Penn State Nittany and East Coast Championships). The cost does not include any travel expenses for JO nationals. A decision will be made at the end of February on whether the team will be attending nationals at which time a cost estimate will be provided for travel to nationals.

Participation in any extra tournaments will be decided based on player and coaching availability.

We run the Maryland Volleyball Program with very little overhead costs and no external financial support. As such, playing player dues **on time** is extremely important. These funds are needed to cover the expenses of the program from month-to-month.

Finally, a **Mid-season Report** will be provided on May 1st to all players indicating current balances and dues paid to date.

Appendix A – USA Volleyball Participant Codes of Conduct

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS ARE PROHIBITED:

1. Violation of any anti-doping policies, protocols or procedures as defined by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) or the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). Violations of this provision will be adjudicated only by USADA or the proper anti-doping authority, not USA Volleyball (USAV).
2. Possession, consumption or distribution of alcohol and / or tobacco if illegal or in violation of RVA or USAV policy.
3. Use of a recognized identification card by anyone other than the individual described on the card.
4. Physical damage to a facility or theft of items from a room, dormitory, residence or other person. (Restitution will be part of any penalty imposed.)
5. Possession of fireworks, ammunition, firearms, or other weapons or any item or material which by commonly accepted practices and principles would be a hazard or harmful to other persons.
6. Any action considered to be an offense under Federal, State or local law ordinances.
7. Violation of the specific policies, regulations, and/or procedures of the RVA, USAV or the facility used in conjunction with a sanctioned event. (It is the responsibility of the individual to be familiar with applicable specific policies, regulations and procedures.)
8. Conduct which is inappropriate as determined by comparison to normally accepted behavior.
9. Physical or verbal intimidation of any individual.
10. Actions that will be detrimental to USAV or the RVA.

USA VOLLEYBALL DISCIPLINARY POLICY:

Infraction	When Occurred	Suggested Maximum Penalty
First	Before or during event	Individual disqualified (if person is a junior, he/she will be sent home as soon as possible and parent or guardian notified). The individual may be declared ineligible for RVA membership or USAV registration for one year starting from the date of infraction.
	After event concludes	The individual may be declared ineligible for RVA membership or USAV registration for one year starting from the date of infraction.
Second	Before or during event	Individual disqualified (if person is a junior, he/she will be sent home as soon as possible and parent or guardian notified). The individual may be declared ineligible for RVA membership or USAV registration for two years starting from the date of infraction.

Infraction	When Occurred	Suggested Maximum Penalty
	After event concludes	The individual may be declared ineligible for RVA membership or USAV registration for two years starting from the date of infraction.
Third		Third Individual may be declared ineligible for RVA membership or USAV registration for the remainder of his/her lifetime.

- **NOTE:** Major misbehavior (e.g. verbal or physical abuse of a child, sexual harassment, etc.) may subject the violator to a lifetime ineligibility for RVA membership or USAV registration after the first infraction. Penalties are only applied after affording the participant due process as required by the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act (TSOASA), USOC, RVA, and USAV. Appeals, other than for doping violations, may be made in accordance with procedures set forth in the bylaws and operating codes of the RVA and USA Volleyball as printed in the current RVA Handbook and *Official USA Volleyball Guide*, respectively.

Appendix B – Previous MVP Players

The following are a list of players who went on to play collegiate volleyball.

Name	MVP Years	College
Kris Berzins	2000-2006	Loyola of Chicago
Mikelis Berzins	2005-2008	Ohio State
David Fitzgerald		Lindenwood
Matt Fritz	2001-2004	Juniata
Brett Hamilton	1998-2001	Ohio State
John Hutchinson	1989-1990	Princeton
John Kessenich	2001-2005	Vassar
David Lloyd	2002-2006	Villajulie
Eric Lucas	2003-2007	George Mason
Tony Mazzullo	1992-1995 ¹	Penn State
Ryan Mullsteff	2005-2008	Loyola of Chicago
Scott Metcalf	1985-1987 ²	
William Price	2001-2005	George Mason/Penn State
Tom Rice	1985-1987	George Mason
Armando Rosso	2003-2007	Juniata
Matthew Schmidt	2005-2008	Juniata

¹ All American

² Participated in 1987 and 1989 Olympic festivals and on USA National team roster

Appendix C – Participation Agreement Form

I, _____, certify that I have read and understand all information provided in the Maryland Volleyball Program Handbook for the 2009-2010 season. I understand both the financial and time commitment necessary to be a member of the Maryland Volleyball Program.

Participant Signature: _____ Date Signed: _____

The undersigned parent and natural guardian or legal guardian of the Participant, _____, certifies that I have read and understand all information provided in the Maryland Volleyball Program Handbook for the 2008-2009 season. I further agree to pay the requisite Dues for the Participant as identified in the Dues Section of this Handbook.

Printed Name Parent/Guardian Signature Date Signed

Appendix D – Major Tournaments

The following is the schedule of the major travel tournaments that teams will be attending this year:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Tournament Name</i>	<i>Tournament Location</i>	<i>MVP Teams Attending</i>
<i>January 16-17th</i>	Rochester CAN-AM OR SCVA Junior Boys Invitational	Rochester, NY OR Anaheim, CA	18-1
<i>February 13-14th</i>	Nittany Invitational	Penn State Univeristy	18's and 17's
<i>February 21-22nd</i>	Nittany II Invitational	Yorktown, PA	16's, 15's and 14's
<i>May 29-31st</i>	Boys East Cost Championships	Richmond, VA	ALL
<i>June 30 – July 7th</i>	Junior Olympic Championships	Atlanta, GA	18-1, 17-1, and 15-1; other teams are TBD