



## CSRA Heat Player and Parent Contract

### Introduction

The CSRA Heat is pleased to welcome you to the 2019-2020 season! We are anticipating a fantastic experience. Along the way this season, we have to ensure that all of us- administrators, coaches, parents and athletes- have a common understanding of where we are going. Our goal is an incident free season. Our experience has told us that the best way for us to accomplish this is to put down in writing our expectations up front. The goal is to put down on paper the answers to potential situations that will come up, and make sure at the same time we answer your questions. Please don't hesitate to ask your coach or the Club Director if you have any questions about any of this information!

### General Policies for ALL Athletes – All Teams

- 1) All Athletes must adhere to the USAV Code of Conduct.
- 2) All Athletes are expected to attend all events scheduled for their team.
- 3) All Athletes are responsible for their own uniforms. The club does not have replacements for lost uniforms. All replacement costs will be your responsibility.

### Travel Policies

- 1) All Athletes must stay in the team hotel blocks while attending overnight tournaments at Stay-to-Play tournaments (e.g. Big South) and the Palmetto Regional Tournament. Any exceptions to this must be approved by the Club Director.
- 2) All Athletes must adhere to curfews, established by their coach or chaperone, while traveling with the club.
- 3) Any parent volunteer providing transportation for a tournament is under the direction of the coach, as far as when and where Athletes are required to be.
- 4) Transportation to and from all practices, club-sponsored clinics, and tournaments is the responsibility of the parents.
- 5) No Athlete may drive to or from a tournament without permission from the Director.
- 6) When at the lodging location, there shall be no display of disrespect toward any Club (The CSRA Heat or other club), coach, athlete, parent, chaperone, or hotel guest/employee.

Note: Unless otherwise stated, first offenses of any of the above guidelines will result in warning to the athlete, with notification to parents and Club Director. A second offense will result in expulsion from The CSRA Heat.

### Attendance Policies

The CSRA Heat will enforce the following practice and tournament attendance policy for every athlete. This policy is not intended to prevent an athlete from playing another sport or participating in other school activities while participating with The CSRA Heat. Attendance at practices and tournaments may affect playing time.

- 1) General Policy: It is the responsibility of the athlete or the parents to notify the coach of any scheduled team event that the athlete will be missing with a minimum one week notice for practices, and two week notice for tournaments.
  - a) Practice
    - i. The athlete will be allowed up to six (6) absences during the season prior to coaching/director



- review. Athletes must still notify their coaches they will be missing a Practice in advance.
- ii. Missing more than ½ of practice counts as an absence.
  - iii. All absences from practices will be evaluated by the Lead Coach/Club Director with proper documentation on a case by case basis.
- b) Tournaments
- i) Athletes shall provide tournament conflicts with other scheduled events (School Sports, Prom, Social, Weddings, Literary ...) during tryouts.
  - ii) Notification should be given as far in advance as possible for other tournament absences. A minimum of two weeks is expected for non-emergency situations.
  - iii) Missing a part of any tournament day counts as 1 absence.
  - iv) The Lead Coach/Club Director will evaluate all tournament absences with proper documentation on a case-by-case basis.

### **Power and National Qualifier Teams**

Participation on a Power or National Qualifier team requires a higher level of commitment than a club or local team, and as such there are a few differences in expectations:

- 1) Attendance. The athlete will be allowed up to four (4) absences during the season prior to Lead Coach/Director review.
- 2) Tournaments. While some tournament conflicts will be unavoidable, it is expected that attendance at tournaments will be made a top priority over other activities.
- 3) Playing time. Coaches will be allowed more leeway toward playing time.

### **Athletes Conduct at a Tournaments/Practice Site**

It is the intent of The CSRA Heat to be a leader in the volleyball community. It is also the intent of The CSRA Heat to lead by example, which means you, both the athlete and the parents of the athlete, need to lead by example. These guidelines are set forth to protect the safety and integrity of the athlete, the parents, the coaches, and The CSRA Heat. Please be aware that all circumstances are not accounted for and in the event of an undue circumstance, the Club Director will enforce appropriate action.

1. Equal playing time is NOT guaranteed. Coaches evaluate athletes during practices on a weekly basis. Playing time at tournaments is earned at practice. If you have a question about your playing time, the athlete should set up a time with your coach to discuss the situation.
2. It is the philosophy of the CSRA Heat that each athlete will have some playing time in each match. However, we have great coaches and intend to allow them to do what's best for the teams as a whole. There may be an occasional game that is of such importance to the team and is being played at a level of play that requires that only the strongest players stay on the floor, but this should be the exception, not the rule.
3. "Conduct unbecoming an Athlete" will not be tolerated at any The CSRA Heat function/event. This covers a wide variety of circumstances, for example the use of foul language or rude gestures towards other athletes, parents, coaches, officials or opponents.
4. Our policy is to "Focus on the Team." When we are in the gym for a tournament, you are responsible for staying with your team. In the event friends attend a tournament, it should be understood that your priority is with your team.
5. Proper nutrition is required. Practices will be very demanding on your physical abilities. Tournaments are an all-day event, and in some cases two and three days long. Your coach will advise you when to eat from the tournament table that is being set up for the team. In all cases, it is important to stay well hydrated at all times.
6. For most tournaments, teams will be responsible for officiating, scorekeeping and handling lines. Each athlete is required to attend a clinic on scorekeeping or officiating.
7. No team member is permitted to leave a tournament site until all officiating responsibilities are completed. There may be circumstances for local tournaments where the head coach can give you permission to leave. If you leave before officiating duties are complete and without permission, you may be suspended for one (1) match at the next tournament.
8. You are to support your teammates at all times while on the team bench, whether you are playing in a particular match or not. Poor bench behavior includes not expressing verbal/vocal support for your



teammates, conducting side conversations taking other's attention off the match, disrupting the match with inappropriate discussion with the coach or coaches, or questioning your playing time or status during the match. **Any behavior of this type is considered Conducting Unbecoming an Athlete and a coach can ask for your suspension.**

9. Parents are to be supportive of the entire team at all times, and all The CSRA Heat teams while at tournaments. Parents are not to engage in any behavior in cheering that would reflect negatively on The CSRA Heat. Guidelines for parents are no different from players in this regard.
10. Only the Head Coach or the Team Captain, under the direction of the Head Coach, may question an official or tournament director. Parents and players shall not confront officials or tournament directors.
11. The Palmetto Region has a NO-TOLERANCE policy on screaming, altercations, yelling, or making any derogatory remarks during a tournament, including but not limited to officiating crew.

If two or more people are involved in an incident, regardless of fault, all parties will be included and subject to penalties. Names of parties involved will be kept on region file. If you witness a violation of the No Tolerance Policy, if possible, take a video, remit a statement.

During events, gym supervisors, event staff or professional officials have the authority to expel a violator from facility. If this action is taken, the following information must be remitted to the region within 5 days.

- Name(s) of who was involved and club they are associated with.
- First hand statements from witnesses emailed to region, obtain the names of all witnesses.
- Statement from Event personnel who handles incident

#### **Penalties**

1st OFFENSE: Warning and probation for 3 years. The region may require club to address the incident with involved parties and/or letter of apology.

2nd OFFENSE (from same person): \$150 fine to club, person involved is suspended from attending future tournaments for the remainder of the current season. If incident occurs within one month of region championships, the person will be suspended for 1st month of the next season.

3rd OFFENSE: (From same person) will be fine of \$250 to club and person will be suspended from attending future events for 24 months.

12. Any fines that the CSRA Heat incurs as a result of a player or parent action shall be the responsibility of the parent.

#### **Player Obligation to the team and club**

When a player accepts a position with the CSRA Heat, per USAV and Palmetto region rules, that player is committed to the club through USAV Nationals in July, regardless of the level of team that athlete has made. In the event that the CSRA Heat does not have an appropriate team playing an extended season, players may request a release from the Club Director to be allowed to play with another club after the end of the regular season.

#### **Expulsions and Suspensions**

While it is not the intent of The CSRA Heat to suggest there will or could be problems, the mission and integrity of The CSRA Heat should be foremost in our minds. Suspensions have been identified where appropriate in this document. The Head Coach and Club Director will evaluate all situations. Fairness to all is our objective; use your common sense in all situations. The CSRA Heat will support the following:



Automatic expulsions of athletes will result for the following offenses:

- Smoking at any The CSRA Heat function
- Using alcohol or drugs at any time during a CSRA Heat function
- Leaving lodging premises without notifying the coach and without a chaperone
- Having boys in a girl athletes' room (other than relatives) and vice versa.
- If the athlete has more than 6 absences, 4 absences on a Power or National Qualifier team.  
(Subject to Lead Coach/Club Director Review)

### **Grievance/Escalation Procedure**

The procedure is designed to help athletes and parents with questions, concerns or problems that may occur during the course of the season. It ensures open and honest communication between all parties involved.

1. The Athlete must first ask for a meeting between the coaches and herself/himself to discuss the issue at hand. In the case of players on 14U and younger teams, the player's parent may request the meeting.
2. If the issue is unresolved, the parent may ask for a meeting between themselves and the coaching staff to discuss the issue. The meeting should take place at a location considered adequate for a private discussion agreed upon in advance by both the parent and coach- NOT during a tournament and/or a practice.
3. If the issue is unresolved, the parent must ask for a meeting with the Club Director, Head Coach, parent, athlete, and coach. A scheduled time away from practice or a tournament is appropriate. The decision at this point is FINAL.

### **Financial Agreement:**

1. Club fees are due in accordance with the provided schedule when the athlete and parents accept a position on a team or having signed this agreement.
2. Any club fee schedule agreed to in writing must be adhered to. An athlete will not be allowed to participate until fees are paid as per agreement.
3. Fees paid to the club are non-refundable after a player has accepted a position on a team or officially joined a specific program. The reason that fees cannot be refunded is that once a player commits to a program, the club spends the majority of the team budget in the first few weeks to cover gym expense, USAV Fees, Palmetto Region fees, equipment purchases, tournament entries, uniforms, etc... These expenses are non-refundable to the club.
4. Refund exceptions may be made due to a season ending injury as a direct result of participating in a sanctioned club event, serious illness, or relocation out of the area. In this instance, pro-rata refunds MAY be granted with a written request, to the Club Director, accompanied by a physician's report, where applicable. In the case of injury or illness, The club must receive a signed statement from a physician that states the player cannot participate in volleyball and the duration that they are unable to participate.
5. Refunds for the unlikely event of a team folding will follow the PRO-RATA refund schedule.
6. There are no credits or refunds for players who are unable to attend tournaments or practices, including post regionals, regardless of prior notification. For the purpose of pro- rata refunds, the start date of the season shall be December 1.

PRO-RATA Refunds, if approved, are based upon the following formulas:

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| weeks 1-3                | 50% of the season fee   |
| weeks 4-6                | 30% of the season fee   |
| weeks 7-10               | 10% of the season fee   |
| week 10 to end of season | no refund shall be due. |

EXAMPLE: If season fees are \$1,000 and a player is granted a refund in week 3, then that player is obligated to pay \$500 to the Club. If the player has not made payments totaling \$500, then that player is obligated to pay any remaining balance so that the total paid is \$500. If the player has paid in excess of \$500, then the player is entitled to a refund of the amount paid in excess of \$500.



## **CSRA Heat's Independent Contractual Relationship with the Palmetto Region**

The Palmetto Region will accept new Clubs only after a background check has been cleared by the United States Volleyball Association (USAV) on its director(s). The Region expects each volleyball Club to perform as an independent business, run and managed by its director and/or board. In order for a Club to maintain their membership with the Palmetto Region, the Club must follow the rules and guidelines set forth by the Palmetto Region and USAV.

When joining a club, the player and parents are contracting with a specific club for services, not with the region. In choosing a club, it is important for the parents to question the Club's Director on how each club manages their business affairs. In the event a club fails to meet its contractual obligations to its members, the Region has the right and authority to sanction or terminate a club's membership in the Palmetto Region.

If a parent has a concern regarding their club not meeting its contractual obligations, they may contact the Palmetto Region Office.



**Sign-Off Sheet – Return This Sheet**

Athlete Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

We, the parents/guardians of \_\_\_\_\_, have read the before mentioned information concerning the policies and practices of The CSRA Heat Volleyball (hereafter called “The CSRA Heat”) in the CSRA Heat Player- Parent Contract. We agree that having been selected to a team, to let her/him join The CSRA Heat for the 2019-2020 club season. We have read the information provided and understand the time and commitment involved in the practice and competition schedule. We have reviewed the fee schedule and agree to pay all fees regardless of the duration of participation. Understanding the stipulations and having discussed these with our child, we agree to and will support her/his participation in The CSRA Heat. We understand that once registered with and having participated with The CSRA Heat, the Athlete will be unable to transfer clubs and compete in the USAV Regional and Junior Olympic Championships.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the athlete playing with The CSRA Heat, have read the before mentioned information concerning the policies and practices of The CSRA Heat Volleyball and agree to follow these policies. I understand the commitment I am making to The CSRA Heat and that if I should choose not to follow the policies as expressed above and any additional boundaries set forth by my coach, my playing time may be restricted and I risk expulsion from The CSRA Heat.

This agreement supersedes all prior oral or written representations or communication between all parties. It also constitutes the entire understanding of the parties regarding the subject matter of this agreement, and may only be modified or amended by written supplement signed by both parties.

**Athlete:**

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Parent/Guardian:**

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_.