



Big Sky Player/Parent Handbook

Welcome to Big Sky Volleyball Club

Where dedication meets excellence. Our club is home to some of the most talented athletes in the state of Montana, and we're committed to providing the best training and competition opportunities possible.

Mission Statement

Big Sky Volleyball is a local organization based out of Bozeman, Montana that provides a fun and informative place for young athletes to learn volleyball skills and gain experience to become stronger players and gain a life-long love of the game of volleyball. Our goal is to provide excellent coaching and a valuable volleyball experience. We are dedicated to creating a culture based on a mutual love and respect for teammates, opponents and the game itself. We strive to teach the fundamentals of volleyball at their highest level. Our rigorous, highly competitive system prepares our teams for success at the all level. We pride ourselves in creating a unique atmosphere that fosters a true sense of family within a highly competitive environment. The ideals of hard work and family are the bedrock of the Big Sky Volleyball Club and will be what separates us from the rest.

Purpose

BSVC provides multiple opportunities that vary in time and financial commitment as well as intensity for female athletes grades K-12th. We are dedicated to advancing the personal and athletic development of youth through pursuit of excellence in volleyball, fostering a sense of community and culture throughout the club and promoting leadership in all club participants.

BSVC strives to provide an experienced qualified coaching staff that guides athletes in developing volleyball skills, system knowledge and team dynamics. We emphasize playing in a positive, nurturing environment, teaching the concepts of team, sportsmanship and having fun. We help many of our athletes in reaching their goal of playing at the middle school, high school and collegiate levels. We recognize that all the coaches, athletes, parents and participants benefit from being committed to a progressive club that has a continuity of purpose and that pursues excellence.

We love volleyball and genuinely want all our athletes to have a great experience. Our success is not measured in wins and losses but by the growth, development and enjoyment of our athletes. We strive for all participants to learn the game and love the experience.

Club Rules

Communication:

The primary form of communication from your coach or the club director will be through email. If a last minute change occurs with a practice or with a tournament we will try to text out that information or call parents directly. Billing information will be sent by email. Please inform the Club of any contact changes right away.

Player to Coach:

Players and coaches should build trust and respect. Players are encouraged to address concerns, particularly about playing time, by asking how they can improve and contribute more to the team. Coaches aim to be approachable and create a safe environment for these discussions.

Player to Player:

Conflicts between players should be resolved outside of practice or tournaments to avoid disrupting team chemistry. Players should respect each other's contributions even if they don't get along personally. If conflicts cannot be resolved, avoid involving others or spreading negativity through gossip or social media.

Parents to Administration:

Parents should communicate the following to coaches or administration:

- Health information: illnesses, restrictions, allergies, medications.
- Emotional health: issues affecting behavior, such as struggles in school or family matters.
- Difficulties with communication between their daughter and coaches: notify the director, who will inform the coach.
- Positive feedback about the team or coach.
- Willingness to help with team activities.

Parents should avoid discussing playing time, other players, coaching techniques, and/or sportsmanship issues.

Practice:

Big Sky Volleyball teams practice two to three times per week. Some teams may have additional specialty practices based on the coach's preferences, and extra practices may be scheduled before major tournaments. Practice times may change due to weather or travel schedules, but we will make every effort to reschedule within the same week. However, this may not always be possible due to limited gym availability.

Practice Expectations:

Our focus with practice is to build team unity, increase their base knowledge of tactical volleyball skills and adequately prepare the team for competition. To achieve that, certain rules are required by all teams as detailed below:

- Every practice is important and athletes are expected to prioritize attendance. If unable to attend, notify the head coach by phone or text (not email) at least 4 hours before practice. If the head coach is unreachable, ask a teammate to relay the message.
- Advanced notice is required for planned absences due to vacations or other events. Missing practice may affect playing time.
- If a player can attend part of a practice, they should still come. Injured athletes who can attend school should also attend practice to support the team.
- Players with a fever or stomach flu should not come to practice.
- Arrive at least 15 minutes early to be dressed and help set up.
- Practices will end on time unless otherwise communicated by the coach.

Practice Attendance:

With Big Sky Volleyball's effort to promote better development, attendance is crucial to the team's success. Any absence or tardiness must report to the coach beforehand. Any absence that is not communicated (other than a safety threatening or family emergency) will be considered an unexcused absence. All Big Sky Volleyball coaches will take attendance at all practices. Unexcused absences will result in loss of playing time.

Playing Time:

Playing time, for many players and parents, is a central concern that can distract from our focus on the team's success and can often create divisions within the team. At Big Sky Volleyball, we aim for every player to compete and achieve goals. All players have an equal opportunity to earn playing time during practice and tournaments. However, playing time may vary based on several factors.

- A player's practice attendance.
- A player's ability to perform at the necessary level for a skill or position.
- How a player's attitude adds to or detracts from the chemistry/performance of the team.
- A player's past performance during the tournament or the last week of practice.
- A player's effort and work ethic.
- The importance of the match.

Our goal is for all players to have an on-court role in every match, with exceptions for injuries, rule violations, or critical tournament situations. Playing time tends to be more equal at younger ages, lower competition levels, during pool play, and earlier in the season as coaches assess lineups. Playing time may vary by position and is determined by the needs of the current club team, not past seasons or school team requirements.

Playing Time Policy:

Playing time is determined solely by the coaches and is not negotiable. Players should first address concerns directly with their coach to communicate needs and goals. If unresolved, a second discussion should occur. If still unresolved, a meeting with the player, coach, parents, and a club administrator can be requested. Good communication is key.

24 Hour Rule:

If a parent or player is upset, please wait at least 24 hours before addressing the issue unless of course it is an urgent matter not relating to play time.

Mandatory Parent Meeting:

Big Sky Volleyball has a mandatory parent meeting. After tryouts, the location, date and times will be posted for each team on the club website. Parents Meeting Checklist:

- Complete and turn in paperwork which includes the following:
 - Current AAU and/or USAV membership.
 - Parent Code of Conduct Form or Player Code of Conduct Form.
 - Payment of initial deposit.
 - Parent meeting with your team's head coach.
 - USAV Letter of Intent if applicable.
 - USAV Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct Form if applicable.

Tournaments

Most tournaments that Big Sky Volleyball teams participate in are one day, either a Saturday or a Sunday. The typical one-day tournament schedule starts at 8:00 AM with pool play consisting of three or four matches followed by bracket play in the afternoon. A few tournaments involve two or more days of pool play followed by single/double elimination bracket play.

Tournament Rules and Expectations:

- All athletes are required to stay at the tournament until the team has been released by one of the coaches. We play as a team, and we will leave as a team.
- Players are to be responsible for their own water during the match. Parents may not approach the bench to refill or bring water after the match has started.
- If a player knows that she will miss a tournament, be late or have to leave early from a tournament it is her and her parent's responsibility to notify the coach as soon as a conflict is identified.
- All athletes are required to be in the gym, ready to warm-up, at the scheduled start time set up by their head coach.
- Players AND parents are expected to avoid displaying negative emotions during matches. Arguing with the officials, coaches or other participants will not be tolerated.

Team Area & Cooler:

Upon arrival, the team will set up a designated area to store bags and relax between matches. This space, which could be a room, table, or spot in a hallway, should be kept neat and organized. Players may bring personal items like blankets, pillows, books, or music, but valuables are left at their own risk. Ensure all trash is disposed of, and leave the area as we found it. As most tournaments do not provide concessions, team chaperones will coordinate a team picnic with food brought by players and parents, which will be available in the team area for everyone to enjoy.

Travel:

Big Sky Volleyball's travel policy places the responsibility of most aspects of travel to tournaments and supervision of athletes on their parents. Parents are responsible for all costs for travel and meals for themselves as well as their daughter.

Chaperones:

The chaperone position is required for all USAV teams and they are listed on the team roster. The chaperone must attend the coaches meeting at the beginning of the tournament and those persons are responsible for our players' behavior when the coaches are not present at the team cooler area. Big Sky Volleyball does not task chaperones to be responsible for player travel to tournament sites or for player behavior while at hotels nor are chaperone travel expenses covered by the club. Chaperones can be used by the team's head coach in many facets over the course of a season. From helping to organize the team picnic area during single day tournaments to orchestrating team bonding activities during an out of state, multi day tournament. Chaperones should think of themselves as an off-the-court assistant for the team.

Hotel Policies:

- Our policy is that players will stay with their parents when traveling requires the team to stay in a hotel. If a player will not have a parent at the tournament then the parent should make arrangements with another parent or guardian on the team to stay with that family. In no case will a player stay in a room by herself.
- While not a requirement, we prefer to have the team stay together in the same hotel if a family will be using a hotel. If that family has friends or other family in that community they can stay with them if they desire to do so.
- All players are expected to be in their rooms and in bed at curfew. Unless a coach has designated a specific time, the default curfew will be 10:00 PM.

- Though your hotel is your temporary home, it is also the temporary home of many others. You must respect the needs of others by keeping your voice down throughout the hotel.
- Athletes may not leave the hotel area at any time without permission from their parent or the parent that they are staying with. Athletes should never be alone. Use the buddy system.
- An athlete found in breach of the USAV code of conduct (use of drugs/alcohol or possession of weapons), they will be sent home immediately at the expense of the parent or guardian.
- An athlete who damages any property at a hotel or lodging will be personally responsible for damages.

Airline Policies:

For out of state trips that require air travel Big Sky Volleyball's policy is the same for local or regional tournaments. Parents are responsible for their daughter's transportation to the event. The coach or director will provide dates and times for arrival and departure that families must follow while booking long distance transportation.

Parent Guidelines:

- Parents are responsible for the transportation of their daughter to and from tournaments. Big Sky Volleyball recommends that athletes do not drive themselves to and from tournaments. Car-pooling can be arranged with other teammates and is encouraged. Please be considerate and either arrange a ride exchange or contribute towards the cost of gas.
- Many gyms prohibit food or drink other than water in the court areas. Teams may be penalized by the tournament site director if parents or team supporters ignore this rule.

Team Fees & Billing

Team fees vary within the club and compared to other clubs based on how much your team practices and the tournament schedule that the club selects.

Team fees include:

- **Admin Fee-** covers registration for staff, equipment, website, tax preparation, etc...
- **Coaching Fee-** covers coaching stipends for head and assistant coaches.
- **Gym Fee-** covers costs for practice gyms.
- **Travel-** covers hotel, mileage and meal per diem for coaching staff (not players).
- **Equipment-** covers balls, nets and other equipment replacements or maintenance needs.

Team fees do NOT include:

- Any travel expenses or meals for players
- Team cooler expenses
- USAV/AAU membership for players
- Apparel or accessories such as spandex, knee pads, shoes, socks or gym bags/backpacks

Billing and Payment Policies:

- **Responsible Party-** The parent or guardian who signs the participation agreement and the USAV letter of intent is liable for any and all fees, dues, and charges for goods and services incurred by the participant. By signing the agreement, the responsible party accepts liability and agrees to be bound by the terms of the agreement. The agreements for all sibling participants, regardless of which parent or guardian signs as the responsible party, will be treated as one account for the purposes of this liability.

- **Returned Item Fees-** In the event a check or credit card draft used to pay fees is returned to Big Sky Volleyball or refused for payment regardless of the reason for refusal, a \$30.00 service fee will be assessed to the participant's account.
- **Refunds-** If the participant becomes so severely injured while playing or practicing with the club that she cannot practice or compete for more than 2 months then a refund will be given. The responsible party will still be required to pay all incurred costs prior to injury.
- **Payments-** Online payment only through sportsengine.
- **Payment Schedules-** Payment schedules are put in place and will automatically be deducted.
- **Payment Plan-** If an extended monthly payment plan is necessary for your family please contact the Director to make arrangements.
- **Delinquent Payments-** A player who is delinquent with payments will not be placed on the tournament roster. Players not on the tournament roster are not able to play and may not sit on the bench during tournaments. Accounts that remain unpaid will be considered "Not in Good Standing" and reported to the Evergreen Region office of USAV which may affect a player's participation during the subsequent club season. Accounts that are more than 90 days past due will be reported to collections.

Additional Club Information

Club Scholarships

Every club season, BSVC will award scholarship money to one or more families needing assistance with an athlete's fees. You will be required to write a letter stating the need for assistance as well as provide financial information. The athlete will also be required to write an essay about what volleyball means to her. The amount available every year may fluctuate and all funds are distributed at the discretion of our committee. In the event that an athlete is voluntarily or involuntarily removed from the team, the responsible party for that athlete must pay back the full scholarship amount.

College Recruitment:

We take pride in promoting our players. BSVC will provide information about recruiting and assist in making player profiles to help promote each athlete. Playing for Big Sky Volleyball Club does not guarantee a spot in a college program.

Website:

Our website www.bigskylvolleyball.com has a lot of information and resources for parents or players. The website will keep an updated calendar of all events including practices, clinics and tournaments. All changes will be updated promptly to make the website the most reliable source of information regarding your team.

Practice Locations:

Heritage Christian School - 4310 Durston Rd, Bozeman, MT 59718

Petra Academy - 4720 Classical Way, Bozeman, MT 59718

Anderson School - 10040 S Cottonwood Rd, Bozeman, MT 59718

Gallatin Gateway - 100 Mill St, Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730

Monforton Middle School - 6001 Monforton School Rd, Bozeman, MT 59718

Athlete Code Of Conduct

My primary goal is to become the best player I can be. I am responsible for my own actions and behavior. I am fully committed to Big Sky Volleyball and I agree that:

Attitude:

- I will conduct myself in a manner that is respectful to me, my team and to BSVC.
- I will commit to my team by getting adequate sleep, eating a healthy diet, and abstaining from alcohol, illegal drugs or tobacco during the course of the club season.

Drugs and Alcohol:

- I will not use any drugs, tobacco or alcohol during my BSVC season.

Communication:

- I will avoid criticism of my teammates and coaches, as I believe no one is trying to make a mistake.
- I will refrain from posting or communicating negative comments about other players, coaches, parents or the club via texting, email or social media.
- I, myself, will talk to my coach about any playing time issues and find out what I can do to see more playing time. I understand playing time is not equal.

Coachability:

- I will accept decisions by my coaches knowing that everyone cannot start. I will accept my role on the team and do what it takes for the team to succeed.

Practice:

- I will manage my time to meet my commitments to my team, my family, my classes and my other commitments.
- I will proactively contact my coach as far as ahead of time if I am unable to make it prior to practice or a tournament.
- I will commit to being ready 10 minutes before the scheduled practice start time and help set up equipment.
- If I miss practices and/or tournaments, I understand that I may lose play time.

I will let my coach know of any conflicts with the practice and competition schedule at the first practice. Included are school conflicts, church, family activities, spring break etc. I will remind my coach of these missed events ahead of time. Practice times for each team will be available at tryouts along with tournament dates.

Parent Code of Conduct

Parents are crucial to the success of the Big Sky Volleyball Club and their daughter's club volleyball experience. Big Sky Volleyball requires that the parent(s) of any player in our club sign this code of conduct contract. I therefore agree that:

Safe Play:

- I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my daughter or the safety of others.
- I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all tournaments and practices.

Sportsmanship:

- I will respect the officials and their authority during games. I understand that many of our officials are coaches or junior players. I will not yell or scream at officials and leave it up to my daughter's coach to resolve issues with the official or scorekeeper.
- I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to sulking, being passive aggressive, showing hostility or resorting to violence.

Coaching:

- I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices unless I am the official coach. I will avoid yelling instructions to the players during the game.
- I understand that playing time will be afforded to all players, but not necessarily in equal proportions. Playing time is the sole decision of the coach and may be influenced by attendance, tardiness, discipline, and ultimately by ability in playing well in pressure situations.

Communication:

- I understand that my daughter should approach the coach if she has problems or concerns first and I will encourage her to do so. If this doesn't solve the problem, I will then set up a meeting with the coach, my daughter, and one of the directors.
- I will not harass the coach at tournaments or practices, I will let my daughter handle it if she has any playing time issues.
- I understand that there are times when I feel I need to speak immediately to the director. I will wait 24 hours after the triggering event so as to make that conversation as productive as possible.
- I hereby authorize Big Sky Volleyball Club to post her name, picture, present school, year of graduation, height, uniform number and position on the Big Sky Volleyball Club website or with any recruiting materials.

Payment:

- I will follow Big Sky Volleyball's payment schedule. I have read the payment schedule and will make my payments before each month's deadline so that my daughter can participate in practices and tournaments.

Consequence:

- If athletes or parents break the agreement, the first offense is a 40 day suspension from the club.
- 2nd offense: family is kicked out of the club.

Important Contacts**Owner/Director:**

Kandice Gregorak
kandicebigskylvolleyballclub@gmail.com
4068603096

Assistant Director:

Melissa Melton
melissamelton08@gmail.com
6026539017

- Practice Schedule Coordinator/Coach Evaluation
- HUDL Coordinator
 - <https://www.hudl.com/classes>
 - taylor.schreiber@hudl.com
- TeamSnap Coordinator
- Best of the West Assistant Coordinator
 - Oversee the apparel, concessions and sponsorship committee.
 - Sign up genius coordinator

Travel Coordinator and Skills Director:

Cassandra Rosa

cassandra.arosa@gmail.com

406-539-8728

- Tournament Travel (Information, Schedule, Registration, Coaches airfare/hotel/transportation, Team Rosters)
 - AAU/USAV (Paperwork, Memberships)
 - Club registration (Dues & Commitment Sportsengine)
- Courses and Credentials for AAU & USAV Memberships (Coaches and Players)
- Skills: Fall league, winter skills and camp coordinator.
 - Hire coaches and organize all aspects.

Big Sky Volleyball Beach Program:

John-Henry Anderson

Jhanderson80@gmail.com

4062409976

Jeni Anderson

jenenne.anderson@gmail.com

4065299733

Big Sky Volleyball Club
Parent/Player Agreement

To accept your spot on a team the following is required:

- Submit your deposit
- Sign Letter of Commitment
- Purchase/renew AAU membership & USAV membership

Payments are to be made online through sportsengine OR mail a check to:

BSVBC

PO Box 3832

Bozeman, MT 59772

Please initial each statement:

_____ I understand that there will be no refunds if we terminate our membership with the club. There are no refunds for quitting because as a team sport, dues support the team in terms of coaching, tournaments, and daily operations of running a club team. By removing a player and income from a team, the structure and finances for the team are compromised and therefore the player and family that quits is liable for any of the above occurring to the team once that player leaves.

_____ I have read and understand the Big Sky Parent/Player Handbook. If we are asked to leave the club because of any conduct violations, we understand we are not entitled to a refund.

_____ I have read and agree to the Athlete and Parent Code of Conduct.

_____ If a player's account is in default it may be turned over to a collection agency. You will also be responsible for, but not limited to, the principal amount, collection agency fees, attorney fees, and any court costs. By signing this agreement, you are acknowledging all fees and penalties for late payments, and any declined checks or credit card payments as follows: