



Angelo Tribe Volleyball Club Manual
2023-24

Table of Contents

1. Mission Statement
2. Goal of ATVC
3. Tryouts
4. Tryout Fees & Forms
5. Movement Between Teams
6. Practice Rules
7. Excused and Unexcused Absences
8. Tournament Rules
9. Officiating
10. Inclement Weather
11. Communication
12. Playing Time
13. Questions, Concerns, & the 24-Hour Rule
14. Parent Code of Conduct for Tournaments and Practices
15. Players Pledge
16. Travel
17. Tolerance Policy
18. Policy Compliance
19. Automatic Expulsion
20. Grievance Policy & Procedure
21. Form & Requirements
22. Club Commitment Fees
23. Club Membership Dues
24. Fundraising
25. Athletes Accounts
26. Terms & Definitions

Angelo Tribe Volleyball Club is a registered junior program affiliate of USA Volleyball.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to cultivate a positive learning environment of physical and emotional growth by focusing on the development of talent, respect, integrity, benevolence, and effort through the sport of volleyball for young athletes.

Goal of ATVC

Our goal is to create competitive club volleyball teams that develop volleyball players into strong, confident, and well-versed young adults by focusing on our T.R.I.B.E. -

Talent: The development of physical and intellectual talent is a very important part of ATVC. Practice time will be primarily devoted to the enhancement of volleyball skills in a setting that also incorporates intrinsic growth in the areas of discipline, teamwork, coachability, responsibility, and perseverance.

Respect: Respect will be given to all players, coaches, families, club staff, referees, tournament staff/facilities, practice facilities, and anyone else that interacts within ATVC's purview. In all situations, respect will be expected by all of those associated with ATVC. This includes communication, as well as the treatment of facilities and physical property.

Integrity: Our Tribe will remain ethically strong by practicing honesty and humility, on and off the court. ATVC aims to create a club experience in which its parents, players, coaches, and staff cultivate a positive environment based on integrity.

Benevolence: Spreading kindness and goodness is an essential part of becoming successful in all areas of life. Benevolence will be cultivated on each team and throughout the entire club.

Effort: We do not expect perfection, but effort. All things worth having in life are those we worked hard to achieve. This means showing up for practice, tournaments, and other club events both physically and mentally prepared to give your team, your coach, and yourself your best effort.

Tryouts

Tryouts will be held starting in the summer prior to the upcoming season. Additional tryouts will be added based on need. Specific dates and times will be posted on our website.

Every athlete who participates in tryouts is given equal opportunity and evaluated on the following criteria:

- Volleyball skill level
- Overall athletic potential
- Work ethic and drive
- Willingness to be coached
- Competitive attitude and effort
- Player position
- Leadership abilities
- Needs of the team

In order to create a competitive team with depth that can handle issues such as injuries or absences, give players ample court time, and keep costs reasonable, ATVC prefers to carry 10 athletes per team. Exceptions will be made on an as-needed basis. A team will not be formed with less than nine (9) or more than twelve (12) athletes. No athlete will be offered a position without being present at tryouts unless authorized by the Club Director.

Tryout Fees and Forms

Registration for Tryouts costs \$20.00. Early Registration (at least 1 week before tryout date) is encouraged. All tryout registration fees are non-refundable. Tryout fees may be paid by cash, check, or Venmo. Please make all checks out to *Baylie Mills* or *Angelo Tribe Volleyball Club (ATVC)*. Venmo information will be given when needed.

Athletes will be required to turn in a completed **Waiver of Liability** form prior to participating in tryouts. Please complete this form online, it is available on ATVC's website.

Movement Between Teams

Occasionally an athlete may be moved from one team to another team based on team needs. Movement from one team to another team is at the sole discretion of the Club Director, in consultation with the affected coaches, players, and parents. An explanation for the move will be disclosed to all parties.

Practice Rules

Practice is a crucial part of any team's success. Therefore, it is important to show up for practice *on-time and consistently*. Scheduled practice time is start time and not arrival time. Plan on arriving at least 15 minutes prior to the start of each practice. Athletes are responsible for their own equipment including, but not limited to, shoes, knee pads, practice shirts, water, snacks, and any sports medicine supplies.

If an athlete cannot be at practice, please contact the coach **before the practice starts**. You must make sure that you make contact with a coach via GroupMe message, call, or text. Do not make contact with another player and expect them to relay the information. If you do not call, message, or text your coach to explain the reason you are late or absent prior to the incident, you will be considered unexcused. A player's absence has a negative effect on the entire team, not just the individual. Unexcused absences may result in a loss of playing time in an upcoming tournament and is up to the discretion of the Coach and Club Director.

It is up to the coaches discretion, in consultation with the Club Director, to run open or closed practices. Open meaning spectators are allowed; closed meaning no spectators are allowed.

Excused and Unexcused Absences

Athletes are expected to make every effort to attend all practices. Regardless of the reason, if an athlete cannot practice, their playing time may be affected.

Legitimate reasons for missing practice include:

- Serious illness that keeps the athlete home from school
- Genuine family emergencies

ATVC recognizes that many athletes play multiple sports and that other athletic events may conflict with practice time. **ATVC will make every effort to schedule practices at times that accommodate as many team members as possible.** This means that practice days and times might change as the season progresses. All changes will be announced so that players and families can make proper arrangements. There will be no reduction in or refund of club dues because of missed practices.

* Homework and games or events in which the athlete is only a spectator are NOT considered excused absences.

Tournament Rules

All athletes are expected to be on the designated court and game-ready by the time determined by the coach. Families are expected to provide transportation to and from tournament sites.

Athletes are not allowed to leave the tournament site until excused by the coach. If an athlete cannot be at a tournament, the athlete/parent is expected to inform the coach as soon as possible. It is the athlete/parent's responsibility to reach the coach **at least two weeks** before a tournament if they cannot attend. There will be no reduction in or refund of club dues because of a missed tournament.

Officiating

Officiating at tournaments is a shared responsibility of the entire team. **All ATVC athletes are required to complete scorekeeping training prior to the first tournament and are required to perform reffing duties as determined by the coach.** This includes bookkeeping, line judging, libero tracking, and flipping the score board. Coaches will establish a procedure for officiating assignments for their respective teams. Every athlete is expected and required to remain in the facility until the entire team is dismissed, as well as remain close to the court in preparation for new sets to begin so that athletes may be relieved from duty on previous sets. Failure to fully participate in officiating responsibilities could result in discipline ranging from loss of play time to dismissal from the team without refund.

Inclement Weather

ATVC recognizes that some players are teen drivers and/or travel a significant distance to practices and tournaments. In the case of inclement weather, coaches will contact the parents/players to notify them of practice changes and/or cancellations.

Communication

Every parent, family member, coach, and player is encouraged to join the Angelo TRIBE Announcements Remind. Club-wide information & reminders will be sent via Remind. This can be set-up through the app OR be sent directly through text message. You can join by texting **@tribe-vbc** to **81010**

Each team will have its own group on GroupMe with the coach, club director, and parents. At least one parent per player is **required** to join the group. This is to ensure timely communication on updates and changes throughout the season. An additional group may be created with the coach and players. Each individual coach may decide whether players will be required to join.

Playing Time

Angelo Tribe Volleyball Club **does not guarantee playing time on any team or at any event**. It is important to remember what our T.R.I.B.E. stands for and that all of those values will be reflected in a coach's decision regarding playing time. Playing time for all athletes is decided *at the discretion of the coach*. All of the following will be evaluated on a continuous basis and used to determine playing time:

- Attendance
- Effort
- Performance
- Athletic potential
- Compliance to T.R.I.B.E. standards
- Team needs
- Team cohesion on the court
- Attitude and demeanor
- Behavior on the sidelines
- Need for development

If an issue arises, it is the **athlete's responsibility to communicate the issue to the coach** and to ask **what they can improve on** to increase their court time. It is up to the individual coach to determine the specific times and/or scenarios which are best to have this discussion. Athletes will be expected to play wholeheartedly in any position deemed appropriate by the coach to benefit team performance. It is the responsibility of the coach to ensure players are prepared for whatever position they will play to the best of their ability.

Questions, Concerns, & the 24-Hour Rule

If a parent has a question about playing time, coaching philosophy, or coaching decisions, the coach is available to discuss these questions at an appropriate time. It is up to the individual coach to determine the specific times and/or scenarios which are best to have these discussions. During warm up, a match, or a team discussion is NEVER an appropriate time. Both coaches and parents are expected to listen to understand the other's perspective. Coaches are not required to discuss playing time on days of competition.

If these issues are unable to be resolved, or were to become aggressive and/or highly emotional, parents and coaches are expected to wait at least 24 hours after the specific event before revisiting the topic. For example, if the issue occurs on Saturday of a two-day tournament, the 24 hour period begins after the last match is played on Sunday.

This cool-off period allows the parent, player, and coach time to collect themselves so that discussions are productive and positive. ATVC will never allow a parent to criticize or compare their child to another player on the team during these discussions. It is ATVC's goal to enable all players to be successful

which cannot be done by comparison to others, but instead a focus on personal growth.

Parent Code of Conduct for Tournaments and Practices

Parent participation and collaboration is essential for the success of ATVC's teams and athletes. Active and responsible parents also contribute to the positive image of Angelo Tribe Volleyball Club within the community. ATVC is responsible for the actions of it's players, coaches, parents, and spectators. **All parties must adhere to the following conduct guidelines:**

- **Respect:** Be respectful to all players, coaches, officials, officiating athletes, facilities, other teams, and parents.
- **Cheering & Encouragement:** Support all ATVC's teams and players by cheering positively from the sidelines. This is expected for players and it is imperative to model this behavior for our young athletes.
- **Sideline Coaching:** It is important to your daughter's success to focus on the coach's instruction and the team's needs. Coaching from parents during play is distracting and affects the team's dynamics on the court negatively.
- **Approaching Officials:** Never approach or yell at the officials, lines persons, or scorekeepers at a tournament. If a discrepancy occurs, let the coach handle the issue. Officials and young athletes are human and fallible, kindness and grace goes a long way in creating a positive club volleyball experience for everyone.
- **Communicating with Coach:** Always maintain clear, open, and honest communication with the coach. Adhere to the coach's expectations regarding appropriate times for sensitive discussions. Remember to adhere to the 24-Hour Rule in regards to playing time and other issues related to coaching decisions.

Persons in violation of the guidelines listed above are subject to the disciplinary actions outlined under **Policy Compliance**.

Player's Pledge

All players must commit to the ATVC Player's Pledge. This establishes the groundwork of a successful season for all parties involved. ATVC encourages responsibility and integrity by enforcing the Player's Pledge which will be signed by both player and parent before they are allowed to participate in practice.

The Player's Pledge:

My goal is to become the best volleyball player and teammate I can be and I

alone am responsible for my own actions. I am fully committed to Angelo Tribe Volleyball Club and will uphold the following policies and procedures:

- I will, along with my parents, make sure that I have signed up to play with ATVC through the North Texas Region website and I understand that I will not be able to play without completing this task.
- I will be respectful of ALL opponents, teammates, coaches, fans, game officials, equipment, and facilities at all times.
- I will not make hurtful comments or make false statements to or about my teammates, club, coaches, opponents, or officials while representing ATVC on and off the court.
- I will attend every tournament, practice, and team function. I understand that if I am unable to do so, it is my responsibility to inform my coach in a timely manner.
- I will be ready and prepared for practices and tournaments on time - 15 minutes before practices and by the designated time set by my coach for tournaments. I understand that being "ready and prepared" means that I am wearing volleyball shoes, club attire, knee pads, and braces and my hair is tied back.
- I will communicate in a kind and positive manner with my teammates and coaches both on and off the court.
- I will do whatever my coach asks of me and do my best. I will accept my role on the team. I understand what it takes to be a part of a team and that playing time will not be "equal," but based on my effort, skill level, and the needs of the team.
- I will discipline my body by getting adequate sleep and fueling my body well before practices and tournaments.
- I will stay focused at practices, scrimmages or tournaments so that I do not distract my teammates and opponents.
- I will perform reffing duties as assigned. I will stay with my team regardless of whether I am working and be prepared to step in if the need arises.
- I understand if I quit an ATVC team during the season, I may not be allowed to return to play for ATVC or receive a transfer to play for another club.
- I will not use drugs, tobacco and alcohol.
- I will not use abusive or foul language.
- I will accept lineup and other coaching decisions. If I have a question or concern, I will speak to my coach directly. I understand that there are appropriate times to have these discussions and that immediately before, during, or immediately after a match is not an appropriate time.

I understand that if I do not uphold the policies and procedures it may result in disciplinary action from my coach and/or club director.

Travel

Travel expenses and planning including, but not limited to, lodging,

transportation, and meals, are the responsibility of each family. **If the team is traveling out of the area, all team members are expected to dedicate tournament days to any club/team functions.** In the case of Stay-to-Play tournaments, it is the expectation that parents will book rooms under the corresponding tournament system to secure the team's admittance.

Tolerance Policy

The Angelo Tribe Volleyball Club does not tolerate hostile or aggressive confrontations between a parent or player and officials, another parent, a coach, another athlete, or another team's representative(s). Violation of this policy may result in the player being expelled from the club without refund.

Policy Compliance

All coaches, players, parents, and fans are expected to represent themselves and ATVC in a respectful manner, with integrity and benevolence. **Violation of any club policy may result in expulsion from the club and future events.**

At their discretion, coaches and/or the Club Director, may send a player home at the expense of the parent/guardian for violation of any club policy or rule. Any player found in possession of or to have used alcohol, tobacco, or any other controlled substance(s) while representing ATVC will be immediately sent home from the event at the expense of the parent/guardian and expelled from the club.

If a parent violates club policy, the Club Director may request parents not attend future events (such as practices and/or tournament) or their child could be removed from the program.

Automatic Expulsion

ATVC may automatically expel a player or parent for any of the following:

- Using tobacco, alcohol, or drugs at any time during an official function such as practice, tournaments, or meetings
- Leaving a practice or a tournament without notifying the coach
- Using obscene language or gestures in any participating situation with ATVC or anytime they are representing the club
- Having more than 8 unexcused absences from practice/events (subject to Club Director review)
- Failing to remain current on club fees
- Damaging equipment owned by ATVC or any facility used by the club and not reimbursing the costs in a timely manner (usually within one (1) week)

Grievance Policy & Procedure

Issues and concerns should first be brought to the attention of the coach by the athlete. If the player or parent feels the issue is not appropriately addressed, then the parent may reach out to the coach on the matter, adhering to the 24-Hour Rule when appropriate. It is recommended that these discussions be in person. Texting, emailing, and messaging is not as reliable or effective as face-to-face communication. If an in-person meeting is not possible, the next step is a phone call or zoom meeting.

If after a parent-coach meeting has taken place and one or both parties do not feel the issue has been properly addressed, the next step is an in-person meeting with the club director, coach, parent, and player. The Club Director, in compliance with Angelo Tribe Volleyball Club's manual and policies and in cooperation with the coach, parent, and player, will determine the most positive and beneficial outcome for all parties involved.

Forms and Requirements

All players and coaches must be registered with USA Volleyball and have all documents and forms completed/signed by a parent or guardian before they will be allowed to practice with ATVC:

1. Player Commitment Letter
2. Player Online Offer Acceptance (OCS)
3. USAV – North Texas Region Membership Completed and Paid
4. USAV Participant Code of Conduct
5. USAV Emergency Medical Release form
6. ATVC Player/Parent Agreement
7. Scorekeeping Training
8. A copy of the player's birth certificate
9. Player Questionnaire
10. Other forms as determined necessary by the Angelo Tribe Volleyball Club.

Club Commitment Fees

The fee (or deposit) to commit to play for Angelo Tribe Volleyball Club for the 2023-2024 club season is \$250. This deposit amount is taken off the overall cost due to the club and is due at the time of commitment in order for it to be valid.

Club Membership Dues

The ATVC 2023-24 Offer Package is set at \$2400. Payment may be made in full or in five monthly installments of \$430 (\$2400 less the \$250 deposit).

*****Fees are accurate as of June 25, 2023 and are subject to change. Changes**

may be made by the Club Director at any time prior to commitment contracts being signed. All changes will be announced and communicated in a timely manner.***

Fees may be paid by the following methods:

- Cash
- Check payable to *Angelo Tribe Volleyball Club (ATVC)*
- Venmo (please specify athlete's name and what the payment is for)

Club Dues fund the following:

- 2-Hour Practices (55 total)
 - Practices are once/week – September, October, and November
 - Practices are twice/week – December, January, February, March, and until the last tournament in April
- Coaching & Expertise
- Player Equipment: Jerseys (2), Practice shirts (2), Athletic bag (1)
- Team Equipment: Volleyballs, ball carts, etc
- Tournament Entry fees: Fees are based on a 6-tournament season
 - 2-Day Tournaments (5)
 - 3-Day Tournament (1) – Lonestar Classic in Dallas, Texas
- Protection against increased fees (ex: a player leaves the team due to an unexpected circumstance)
- Administrative fees

Club Dues DO NOT include:

- Food, hotel, or transportation for athletes
- Additional National Qualifiers (if awarded)
- Player uniforms other than jersey such as knee pads, spandex, shoes, etc

Fundraising

Players and families are NOT REQUIRED to participate in a fundraiser benefiting themselves or the club as a whole. Fundraising is allowed and encouraged for individual players to help cover club membership dues and extra costs involved with traveling.

A FREE ***Fundraising Strategies & Opportunities*** Info & Q+A Session– hosted by Kim Henry, the founder of The GOLD Beacon, LLC– will be available to all families committed to playing on an ATVC team for the 2023-24 season.

Athletes Account

An athlete with a delinquent account during the current pre-season and/or season may be denied participation in tournaments or practices until the account is paid or arrangements are made with the Club Director. Delinquent accounts may also disallow membership for the next season. Club fees are non-refundable and not based on the player's ability to attend practices or tournaments. Families are financially liable for the total cost upon written commitment to Angelo Tribe Volleyball Club regardless of injury or illness.

Terms & Definitions

Coach: A person who is under contract with ATVC in a coaching role, be it a paid or volunteer position.

Expulsion: Discharging a parent, player, or coach from membership and participation with ATVC.

Fans: Any non-member person(s) attending ATVC events (such as practice, tournaments, or team gatherings) in order to support the organization or its members in any way.

Member(ship): Any person(s) who has signed a contract with ATVC or is acting in the interest of one that has signed a contract (player, spouse, etc).

Parent: An adult (18 or older) representative of an ATVC junior member.

Player: A junior (17 or younger) member of ATVC. Also, a member that is 18 years of age and participating as a player on an ATVC team.