



Maverick Volleyball Club

Guidelines for Resolving Scheduling Conflicts

The Maverick Volleyball Club recognizes the importance of school volleyball and other organized sports and their contribution to the healthy athletic development of youth. It is with that starting point that the Club has developed these guidelines to help athletes and parents make choices that support their athletic and social development.

The successful development of youth both athletically and socially is dependent on good coordination and communication between the club and schools. Coaches are encouraged to communicate early with school coaches and to develop relationships so that scheduling conflicts can be resolved in a manner that will ultimately be most beneficial to the athlete.

When presented with a scheduling conflict, the following guiding principles can be used by the athlete, parent and club coaches in determining an appropriate course of action.

Good communication and proper planning can avoid a significant number of conflicts. Club coaches should meet with athletes at the beginning of the season and outline the list of scheduled activities. Athletes should review their schedule with their school coaches to help identify potential conflicts.

There will of course be situations where unscheduled activities arise and proper application of the following principles will help resolve conflicts.

Principle #1 – Family, Academics, Volleyball

Family and academic activities must take a priority position to volleyball. Proper planning around tests, exams, and reports can generally prevent any conflicts with volleyball. Athletes must learn to plan ahead and coaches are encouraged to mentor athletes in this regard. Athletes should focus on developing good time management skills to help in avoiding conflicts.

Principle #2 – Not all sport activities are equal

In High Performance Programs athletes are required to increase their focus to a particular sport if they wish to pursue the highest level of competition. As such, volleyball activities for the most part should take a priority position over other sporting and non-sporting activities.

At the Competitive levels, athletes are encouraged to play a variety of sports which has an overall positive impact on their development as an athlete.

Generally speaking, when a conflict arises between two sporting activities, the following suggested priority list will help to identify which activity the athlete should attend:

High Performance Athletes

1. Volleyball play-off competition (ex. OVA Provincials, OFSAA, League Finals)
2. Volleyball league competition (ex. High school league game, OVA tournament where ranking is determined)
3. Volleyball pre-play-off competition training
4. Other sport In-season play-offs or league competition
5. Volleyball pre-league competition training
6. In-season volleyball exhibition competition
7. The following are considered equal in importance:
 - a. In-season volleyball training
 - b. Off-season volleyball exhibition competition
 - c. Other sport Off-season exhibition competition
 - d. Off-season volleyball training

Competitive Athletes

1. In-season sport play-off competition (ex. OVA Provincials, OFSAA, League Finals)
2. In-season sport league competition (ex. High school league games, OVA tournament where ranking is determined)
3. In-season sport pre-play-off competition training
4. In-season sport pre-league competition training
5. In-season sport exhibition competition
6. The following are considered equal in importance:
 - a. In-season sport training
 - b. Off-season sport exhibition competition
 - c. Off-season sport training

Principle #3 – Breaking the tie

Parents and athletes are ultimately responsible for choosing between two activities of equal importance.

When making their decision, athletes and parents may find the following list of considerations in priority order helpful.

1. Greatest contribution to the Long Term Development of the Athlete
 - a. With which team will you play more?
 - b. Which team will provide you the greatest challenge of competition?
2. Least negative impact on the social development of the Athlete
3. Least negative impact on others

Principle # 4 - Individuals and teams perform better when they practice and compete together with regularity and consistency

Frequent absences from team practices or tournaments make it difficult for an athlete to integrate with the team and benefit from the team's practice and competition plans and coaching expertise. When making repeated decisions in favor of other activities parents and athletes should be aware that:

1. Repeated absences or irregular attendance patterns will leave the athlete at a performance disadvantage.
2. Repeated resolution of conflicts in favor of other activities may impact the ability of the athlete to play and bond effectively with their team.
3. Repeated absences can lead to frustration and disappointment for the athlete and their teammates and may disrupt the successful completion of the coach's team practice plans.
4. Coaches may not be able to provide supplemental technical instruction to compensate for an individual's missed team training sessions.
5. Coaching decisions in regards to team roles will ultimately reflect the training pattern, level of team commitment, and performance ability of athletes.

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6081 Rivercrest Drive
Ottawa, ON K1C 5R3
www.maverickvolleyball.ca