

# **Western Buckeye Volleyball Club**

## **Club Handbook 2011-2012 Season**



**[www.westernbuckeye.com](http://www.westernbuckeye.com)**

## **Table of Contents**

HISTORY AND INTRODUCTION.....	3
CLUB PHILOSOPHY .....	3
GENERAL INFORMATION ON JO VOLLEYBALL AND THE OHIO VALLEY REGION (OVR) .....	5
BREAKDOWN ON THE TEAMS WE EXPECT TO FIELD .....	6
TRYOUT INFORMATION AND THE SELECTION/ACCEPTANCE PROCESS.....	6
CLUB FEE'S – WHAT IS INCLUDED & PAYMENT SCHEDULE .....	9
SCHEDULING PRACTICES AND TOURNAMENTS .....	9
CLUB RULES.....	10
COMMUNICATION POLICY FOR DISPUTES WITHIN THE CLUB.....	12
CLUB STAFF .....	13
APPENDICES.....	14
2011-2012 Western Buckeye Player Profile.....	14
OVR Waiver and Release of Liability.....	14
OVR Medical History and Release Form .....	14
Player's Bill of Rights.....	14
Western Buckeye FAQ document .....	14
OVR Age/Grade Level Team Definitions .....	14

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## **HISTORY AND INTRODUCTION**

Western Buckeye Volleyball Club can trace its origins back to the early 1990's where it started in Preble County. Western Buckeye has a well-established history within the OVR. While it has operated under a couple of names, WB Elite and Western Buckeye, the club has always attempted to provide a quality experience for its members. Kevin Sedensky, the Varsity Volleyball coach at Springboro High School, was the most recent former director of the club and still maintains his relationship with Western Buckeye as a coach and consultant.

In 2010, Kevin was promoted from the Junior Varsity Coach to the Varsity Coach at Springboro High School. With the additional responsibility of this position, Kevin felt it best to retire as Director of Western Buckeye and turned over the operation to Jennifer Polley. Jennifer is a coach within Western Buckeye and also is the Junior Varsity coach at Stivers School for the Arts in Dayton. Kevin felt confident that the transition would be smooth and the club would continue to operate successfully.

Jennifer is very grateful to all of the directors, coaches, players and families who have built Western Buckeye into the successful program that it has become! As we continue into the future, we hope to build on the successful foundation that has been created by those who have been a part of Western Buckeye in the past.

## **CLUB PHILOSOPHY**

Western Buckeye realizes that volleyball is important to our players and their families. We also realize that players have other interests in their lives, too. As a club, we are concerned with young ladies not only as volleyball players, but as people in general. We understand that players have other activities that they are involved in, and we don't discourage our players from being involved in other activities or sports during the club season.

Western Buckeye is a small enough club (6 teams in 2011) that allows us to operate more like a big volleyball family as opposed to a business. As director, Jennifer Polley

makes herself readily available at many practices and tournaments to interact with players and parents. Western Buckeye wants our members to have a fun and fair experience, and Jennifer strives to make that happen. There are no hidden agenda's at Western Buckeye – each player is treated the same. Also, Western Buckeye will not form teams just for the sake of forming teams. Western Buckeye wants to remain a club that provides a quality experience for everyone, and we will not form extra teams just to increase club income. If interested, Jennifer Polley will be happy to put you in touch with players and parents from previous years so that you can get opinions about their experience.

We focus our efforts on fielding competitive Regional and American level teams. We attempt to schedule most of our tournaments within a 2.5 hour drive (many are much closer) so that travel expenses are kept to a minimum. We develop players for competition at the high school level and for collegiate play. However, we do realize that we cannot be everything for everyone. We do not try to compete with the larger clubs who provide national level teams that play in tournaments all around the country. We believe we provide a quality product and hope you will consider trying out to become a part of the Western Buckeye family.

Western Buckeye is committed to providing a quality experience for a fair price. We welcome you to compare our club fees to other clubs in the area. We believe that Western Buckeye provides you with a great value for your investment. Our focus is on providing quality instruction to help players develop their skills and knowledge so that they can improve their overall abilities. Western Buckeye is proud of the reputation we have developed and we encourage you to compare the records of our teams against the results from other clubs in the area. Western Buckeye is also very proud of the coaching staff we have been able to assemble.

We draw our players from all around the greater Dayton and Cincinnati areas. In 2011 some of the schools who were represented in our club included Springboro, Bellbrook, Beavercreek, Centerville, Miamisburg, Middletown, Lebanon, Kettering, Alter, Oakwood, Monroe, Valley View, Fenwick, Unioto, and many others. We are fortunate enough to draw from a very talented pool of athletes.

Western Buckeye's philosophy regarding playing time is that players earn their playing time based on the effort, attitude and skills demonstrated in practices and in matches. Western Buckeye strives to get every player meaningful playing time in every tournament. This does not mean that playing time will be divided equally and it also does not guarantee that players will get playing time in every match. Defining meaningful playing time is left up to the discretion of the coach. Our coaches understand that they are trying to fulfill dual roles: they are trying to develop the most competitive team that they possibly can while at the same time recognizing that

individual player development is also important. As discussed later in the handbook, any issues regarding playing time or team strategies must be initially addressed between the player and the coach.

As a club, we understand that the athletes who join Western Buckeye are competitive by nature. However, in a club situation, players may be used in a different fashion than they grew accustomed to with their school teams. They may be asked to play a different position or they may not get as much playing time as they are accustomed to getting. These issues generally will not become a problem if the player keeps an open line of communication with her coach. If a player wants to know what they can do to increase the playing time they are receiving, all they have to do is ask their coach. This is an issue that is most easily resolved between the player and the coach.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION ON JO VOLLEYBALL AND THE OHIO VALLEY REGION (OVR)**

The Ohio Valley Region (OVR), Inc. is the largest of the 40 regional volleyball associations (RVA's) of USA Volleyball (USAV). Our main purpose as an amateur athletic sports association is to promote and establish quality volleyball through participation by both adults and juniors, according to the standards set forth by USA Volleyball and the Amateur Sports Act of 1978.

The OVR provides opportunities for our members to participate at local, regional, zonal, and national competitions. Our large and active membership grants us the flexibility to offer exceptional opportunities such as holding both Adults' and juniors' Regional Championships in a metropolitan convention center. We also sponsor High Performance teams for elite juniors and coaches who wish to excel and to challenge their abilities at a highly competitive level of play. The OVR offers many educational avenues to our members who wish to become more effective club directors, coaches, officials, and clinicians. Beyond those immediately tangible benefits, we cannot ignore the physical fitness, health, and social opportunities that our lifetime sport provides.

Probably the easiest way to find the information you need as it pertains to Junior Olympic volleyball and the OVR is to visit their website at [www.ovr.org](http://www.ovr.org). They have a comprehensive website that will provide you with a wealth of information regarding all activities associated with the OVR. They also maintain web pages on their site for all teams registered with the OVR, including all Western Buckeye teams. It cannot be stressed enough how valuable of a resource their website is. It provides just about all of the information you will need pertaining to clubs, teams, and tournaments. You can find



**15's (9th Grade):**                               **Sunday, November 13, 2011 from 12:30 – 3:30 PM**  
**16's (10th Grade):**                             **Sunday, November 13, 2011 from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM**  
**17's & 18's (Jrs. And Srs.):**               **Sunday, November 13, 2011 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

\* 14's playing for their High School team are not eligible to tryout until November 13th.

All of the try outs listed above will be held at Berry Intermediate School located at 23 Oakwood Street, Lebanon, OH 45036.

Western Buckeye tryout information is posted on the OVR website as well as the club's website – [www.westernbuckeye.com](http://www.westernbuckeye.com). Times, dates, and locations for all tryout sessions are clearly identified and the tryouts are open tryouts. We also make certain that players know that it is our intention to only field regional level teams (or American). We recommend advance registration through our website, but we do ask players to arrive 30 minutes early to make certain all appropriate paperwork is completed before they are allowed to try out. We require that the OVR Waiver and Release be completed prior to the tryout, along with a Medical Release form and a Western Buckeye player profile sheet.

Western Buckeye's coaching staff, along with additional volunteers, conduct assessments of all players who attend our tryouts. At each of the initial tryouts, we will have a minimum of 6 evaluators assessing the players.

The first 2 hours or so of our tryout involves players participating in several drills. We are trying to evaluate their individual skill level during these drills. We are looking at skills like serving, passing, footwork, setting, digging, hitting, blocking, as well as overall effort and attitude. During the last hour of the tryout session, we have the players scrimmage or participate in 6 on 6 drills. As a club, we feel it is very important to see how players react in game situations. Some players have great individual skills that don't transfer over to game situations. At the same time, some players have skills that do not stand out in drills, but they show their strengths when put into a game situation.

Immediately following the tryout session, all of the coaches and evaluators meet to make decisions. Many factors go into our selection, including skill level, effort and attitude and positional needs of the teams. We also must consider school affiliations to make certain we are in compliance with OHSAA rules. To make certain we are organized throughout the process, each evaluator has a list of players that are identified by name, school, position desired and a tryout number.

At the conclusion of our evaluation meeting, we categorize each player one of three ways; 1) we make the player an offer immediately, 2) we invite the player to our call

back session (if they can't attend, they are still considered based on what we saw during the initial evaluation), or 3) we decide that we will not be offering the player a position with Western Buckeye for the upcoming season. Each player is contacted within 36 hours of the initial tryout and informed of their status.

For those players who are invited to our call back session, we essentially repeat the evaluation process. Following the second session, the evaluators all meet again to make final decisions on rosters using the same criteria as was used after the initial session. Each player who was invited to the call back session will be contacted within 3 days of the call back session and informed of their status. At this point, the players are again categorized in 3 ways; 1) we make the player an offer, 2) we inform the player they have been placed on our waiting list, or 3) we decide that we will not be offering the player a position with Western Buckeye for the upcoming season.

Per OVR policy, acceptance of offers will need to be made by the following dates:

**For the 2011 fall season, the dates for middle school tryouts are as follows:**

- Tryouts can begin on October 28, 2011. Any tryouts held between October 28 and November 6, 2011 has an acceptance deadline of November 9, 2011.
- Any spots still open on teams can be re-offered to players who attended the tryout and the players will have 48 hours to respond.

**For the 2011 fall season, the dates for high school tryouts are as follows:**

- Tryouts can begin on November 13, 2011. Any tryouts held between November 13 and November 22, 2011 has an acceptance deadline of November 23, 2011.
- Any spots still open on teams can be re-offered to players who attended the tryout and the players will have 48 hours to respond.

Once an offer is accepted, the player and her parent(s) are expected to return a copy of the Club Agreement. The agreement addresses expectations that the club must meet as well as expectations for the player. After an offer is accepted, it is fully expected that both parties will honor the contract. One of the ways Western Buckeye is able to keep our fees reasonable is because we watch our budget very carefully. Once an offer is accepted, Western Buckeye expects full payment to be made according to our payment schedule, even if circumstances change for the player and her family. Please recognize that we have expenses that must be covered and we are dependent on all of our members to honor their payment responsibility to the club.

## **CLUB FEE'S – WHAT IS INCLUDED & PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

Western Buckeye charges \$660.00 per player to participate with our club. Fees include all practice time and coaching, OVR registration, tournament fees, a jersey, and a warm-up. There are no additional fees imposed on club members. Any additional items purchased are strictly optional and are determined on a team-by-team basis. All teams are scheduled for 6 regular season tournament dates (or 6 tournament days if entered in a 2-day tournament) and the OVR Regional Championships in Columbus.

Travel costs for the players and their families are also not included in the team fees. Western Buckeye will continue to schedule most matches within a 2.5 hour drive (most are much closer) or less so that there are no overnight costs incurred for the players for most tournaments. It is possible that one overnight trip will be scheduled per team. There are NO additional fees associated with coaches travel costs or expenses.

Full payment is due by December 1, 2011. However, Western Buckeye does have a payment plan available. If utilized, a deposit of \$200 is due on December 1, 2011, with the remaining balance due in two payments of \$230 each due on January 1 and February 1, 2012. If families have extenuating circumstances, they can contact the club director on an individual basis and he will work with them on a plan that is acceptable to both parties. Generally speaking, in extenuating circumstances, Western Buckeye requires the Club Agreement and a smaller good faith payment be made. Western Buckeye will then work with the member on some sort of alternative payment plan.

All checks shall be made payable Western Buckeye Volleyball Club (any checks that fail to clear will result in a \$25 penalty). Payments are not to be given to the coach of your team – we don't want them to have the responsibility of handling payments. Payments can also be mailed directly to:

**Western Buckeye Volleyball Club  
Attn: Jennifer Polley  
5440 Dovetree Blvd. #19  
Moraine, OH 45439**

Players will not receive their jersey or warm-up until club fees are paid in full.

## **SCHEDULING PRACTICES AND TOURNAMENTS**

Practice will start for all teams on January 8, 2012. The date for the end of your season will depend on the date the OVR Regionals are scheduled for your age group. All

teams will be done before Memorial Day weekend (see the OVR website for championship dates).

Each team will practice 2 times per week. Generally speaking, each team will practice on one weekday night and one weekend afternoon or evening each week. Weekend practices will not occur for an individual team when they have a tournament scheduled. All practices are scheduled to be held at Berry Intermediate School or Donovan Elementary School in Lebanon. Days and times will be determined after try outs for each team – but you will have that information at the time an offer is extended to you. We do not pre-determine days and times, because we look at the make-up of each team and try to minimize any conflicts on a team-by-team basis. Contact the Club Director if you need more information about potential practice schedules.

Tournament dates may not be known until late December. If the options are available, our teams will be entering 1-day tournaments. We will try to schedule tournaments that do not require more than 2.5 hrs for travel (most will be much closer) so that players and parents do not have to incur overnight hotel expenses. Each team will be scheduled for 6 regular season tournaments (or 6 tournament playing days if entered into a 2 day event) and the OVR Regional Championships in Columbus for a total of 7 tournaments. Most, but not all, tournaments will be scheduled on Sundays to avoid conflicts with school athletics. We also do look closely at dates of conflict that are listed on the Player Profile sheet, so it is important to list all known conflicts on the form. Typical conflicts may include Spring Break and proms. While it may not be possible to schedule around each individual's potential conflicts, Western Buckeye can't even make the attempt if we are unaware of conflicts.

In addition to avoiding conflicts, when scheduling tournaments, we take a number of other things in to consideration. Obviously, the travel distance to the tournament is an important factor. We also make an attempt to avoid scheduling tournaments on more than two consecutive weekends for each team, if at all possible. We also consider the quality of the facility that is hosting tournaments – there are facilities we have been to in the past that we prefer not to revisit. Additionally, we try to schedule tournaments at different areas within our region in an attempt to make certain we play against a variety of teams.

## **CLUB RULES**

As a club, Western Buckeye does not have a lot of rules for our members. Individual coaches and teams can each establish their own rules. General expectations for all members of Western Buckeye and our supporters include:

A) All members of Western Buckeye, as well as our supporters, represent Western Buckeye when we are at practice facilities or tournament facilities. Please represent yourself and Western Buckeye with class and dignity.

B) Please treat your team mates, coaches, fans, referees, opponents and anyone associated with an event with respect. Treat others as you expect to be treated. If players or their families have any concerns with a tournament official, please make the coach aware of it so it can be handled properly.

C) If there are site specific rules at tournament locations, it is expected that all Western Buckeye members and their families will abide by those rules (especially pertaining to food and beverage). Please note that the OVR prohibits coolers of any kind at any of their tournament sites.

D) Players and coaches are expected to be at tournament sites a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the tournament. Coaches have the right to ask players to arrive earlier if they determine that is what they want.

E) OVR Tournament formats often require teams to officiate a match after they have finished playing. While only 6 players are needed to perform these duties, each member of the team is expected to remain at the tournament site until all team responsibilities have been fulfilled. Exceptions to this must be granted in advance by the coach.

F) At tournament sites, it is important for the coach to know where players are at all times. Players are to be either at the team “camping” area or around the court they are playing on. No player is to leave a tournament facility without notifying the coach in advance.

G) The time listed for the start of practices is when activities should begin on the court. Players should be dressed and ready to practice at the start of practice, not just strolling into the facility. Also, players are responsible for setting up and tearing down the net systems and ball carts. Net systems, whenever possible, should be set up by the start of practice.

H) If players know they will be absent from or tardy to a tournament or a practice, they need to notify the coach as far in advance as possible. Western Buckeye realizes that things can happen at the relative last minute, so please make certain you have your coach’s cell number with you. Consequences for missing or being late to tournaments or practices are determined by the coach of each team.

I) Anyone who wants to address an issue with the team coach or the club director should ask for a meeting. No discussions or meeting should be held at a tournament site. This rule is expanded upon and explained in the next section of this handbook. 12

J) Meetings to discuss issues with the coach or club director will be limited to talking about the player involved in the meeting. It is not appropriate to address other players on the team.

## **COMMUNICATION POLICY FOR DISPUTES WITHIN THE CLUB**

Grievance procedures are addressed with all players and parents at a club meeting that is held in conjunction with the first practice in January. As Director, I make certain all coaches, players and at least one parent for each player is present at the initial club meeting. I run the meeting and offer plenty of time for a Q & A session

If an issue concerning playing time, positions or strategy arises, Western Buckeye insists that the player address it with the coach before any other parties are brought into the discussion. If the issue cannot be resolved between player and coach, then we set up a meeting between the coach and the parent, and we will request that the player be present in this meeting. If the issue cannot be resolved at this level, then I will meet with the player, coach and parent and make certain we come to a resolution.

If other types of issues arise, and the player does not feel confident addressing it with the coach, then the player's parent can initiate the discussion. If the issue can't be resolved between the parent and the coach, then I arrange a meeting with all of the parties and make certain we come to a resolution.

Parents, players and coaches are reminded that emotions can run high at tournament sites, and sometimes even at practices. For this reason, it is Western Buckeye's policy that any issues are discussed in pre-arranged meetings, generally at the beginning or end of a practice session. It is unacceptable for a player or parent to confront a coach at a tournament site. We ask that the player or parent call or email the coach and ask to set up a meeting at the next practice. This "cooling off" period lets emotions settle down so a productive discussion can be held. If a parent or player does confront a coach at a tournament site, all Western Buckeye coaches are instructed to remind the parent or player that now is not the time to have this discussion, but we will arrange a meeting at the next practice.

Please know that the club director will work hard to resolve all disputes in an acceptable manner to the player/parent. However, in cases where an agreement cannot be

reached by the parties involved, the final decision for all disputes will be made by the club director (Jennifer Polley). After a final decision is made by the club director, there is no avenue for further appeal. The club director has the responsibility and authority to make a final decision regarding any disagreements or disputes regarding Western Buckeye activities.

## **CLUB STAFF**

Jennifer Polley is the Director of Western Buckeye Volleyball Club and will also be a head coach for one of the teams in the club. She can be contacted at [coachpolley@westernbuckeye.com](mailto:coachpolley@westernbuckeye.com) or 937-475-5673.

The remainders of Western Buckeye's staff for 2010/2011 are the following coaches:

Kevin Sedensky

Dawn Leach

Elizabeth (Betsy) Pratt

Jerrica Dabe

Western Buckeye is very proud of its coaching staff. All coaches within the club have both school volleyball coaching experience as well as club volleyball coaching experience. You can read brief bios for all of our coaches and staff members by going to our website at [www.westernbuckeye.com](http://www.westernbuckeye.com).

Coaches will be assigned to teams during the tryout process. At the time offers are made, Western Buckeye will also inform players who the coach of their team is expected to be. A factor that must be considered includes the OHSAA rule that prohibits scholastic coaches from coaching their own athletes.

## **APPENDICES**

Links to the following Western Buckeye and OVR documents and forms are provided below. Links to most of these forms can also be accessed at Western Buckeye's website, [www.westernbuckeye.com](http://www.westernbuckeye.com).

### ***2011-2012 Western Buckeye Player Profile***

[http://www.westernbuckeye.com/uploads/2011-2012\\_Western\\_Buckeye\\_Player\\_Profile.pdf](http://www.westernbuckeye.com/uploads/2011-2012_Western_Buckeye_Player_Profile.pdf)

### ***OVR Waiver and Release of Liability***

[http://www.ovr.org/forms/OVR\\_Waiver.pdf](http://www.ovr.org/forms/OVR_Waiver.pdf)

### ***OVR Medical History and Release Form***

[http://www.ovr.org/forms/Player\\_Medical\\_Release\\_w\\_Notary.pdf](http://www.ovr.org/forms/Player_Medical_Release_w_Notary.pdf)

### ***Player's Bill of Rights***

[http://www.ovr.org/forms/Athletes\\_Bill\\_of\\_Rights.pdf](http://www.ovr.org/forms/Athletes_Bill_of_Rights.pdf)

### ***Western Buckeye FAQ document***

[http://www.westernbuckeye.com/uploads/WBVBC\\_FAQ\\_2011-2012.pdf](http://www.westernbuckeye.com/uploads/WBVBC_FAQ_2011-2012.pdf)

### ***OVR Age/Grade Level Team Definitions***

<http://www.ovr.org/juniors/divisions/php>

For any other information pertaining to the Western Buckeye Volleyball Club, please visit [www.westernbuckeye.com](http://www.westernbuckeye.com) or email Jennifer Polley, club director, at [coachpolley@westernbuckeye.com](mailto:coachpolley@westernbuckeye.com)

For Ohio Valley Region information, please visit [www.ovr.org](http://www.ovr.org).