



Playing Time Policy

Definitions

The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:

- a) "Athlete" means a player on a SVC volleyball team.
- b) "Family" means a group consisting of Parents or Legal Guardians and Athletes living together in a household.
- c) "Members" – All individuals employed by, or engaged in activities with, SVC including, but not limited to, athletes, coaches, coordinators, judges, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, parents/guardians, founders.
- d) "Parent" means the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the Athlete.
- e) "SVC" means Shuswap Volleyball Club.
- f) "Fair Play Rule(s)" as defined in the latest VBC Handbook ([Rules](#)), which primarily applies to 15U athletes.

Purpose

SVC's philosophy is to provide as many athletes as possible the opportunity to compete and participate in the sport of volleyball. SVC teams will compete and train at the highest appropriate developmental level possible, to ensure that our teams are continually being challenged and growing. SVC and the coaching staff will determine the abilities and level of play for each team. During Volleyball BC, Volleyball Canada, Provincial and National events, SVC will compete to place as high as possible, but maintain a development mindset.

Application of Policy

Below are the guidelines SVC coaches use to facilitate the distribution of playing time. Coaches will have final decision-making in all playing time situations. These are only guidelines. A few other factors may also contribute to playing time decisions, including but not limited to:

1. **Commitment Level.** Athletes are expected to be committed to attending all practices and competitions. Athletes should demonstrate a strong work ethic, growth mindset, positive attitude, team cohesion, and coachability.
2. **Skill Development and Physical Maturity.** All athletes develop at different paces and at different ages. While most skill growth happens at practice, coaches shall attempt to match the skill and maturation level of the opponent when possible. All players should have a role on a team and contribute to the best of their abilities, however, coaches will make final decisions on court time with consideration to physical readiness and skill preparedness (if a player is playing up, this may include sitting in an unsafe situation due to maturation).

14U/15U and Under Age Group

3. While the considerations above do matter, coaches at the younger levels will be expected to follow the Fair Play Rule (see the Volleyball BC handbook – link above) and at 15U as per the Provincial Games rules (not applicable during other games).

16U and Over Age Group

4. Playing time will look to follow the recommendations developed by Volleyball Canada and Volleyball BC around fair play during exhibition matches, and the round robin of all non-provincial ranking and seeding events; however, playing time at Super Series events (seeding) and during the playoffs (Provincials) will be at the discretion of the coaching staff, and may not be equal, bearing in mind every player has the right to play.
5. There are also situations where coaches will be exploring lineups, rotations etc. Coaches have final discretion regarding playing time choices and will manage the roster as they deem necessary.

Playing Time Policy (Continued)

6. Playing time will be at the coach's discretion during all Volleyball BC Events, Provincial Ranking Tournaments, Provincial Championships and National Championships