**NEWARK VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION**

**STUDENT-ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY AGREEMENT**

Student-Athlete’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I understand that a fulfilling educational sport experience requires the exercise of responsibilities on the part of both personnel associated with the athletics program and student-athletes.  As a student-athlete, I understand my responsibility to commit to the principles of self-discipline, collaborative effort and team building, and to be an ambassador for the Newark Volleyball Association.

These practices are set in place to safeguard the best interests of the Student-Athletes, the legal guardians of the Student-Athletes, Managers, Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and the Newark Volleyball Association (“Company”).

Falsified information provided to the Company by a Student-Athlete and/or said Student-Athlete’s Voting Affiliate or legal guardian, which causes the Team or Company to violate these Bylaws or any agreement made between the Company and said individual(s), may result in the removal of the associated Student-Athlete from the Newark Volleyball Association.

**Academic Standards**

I understand that the Newark Volleyball Association is committed to the philosophy that student-athletes are students first and foremost and that all student-athletes must exhibit behaviors that demonstrate a commitment to maximizing academic success as their first priority.

I understand that the Newark Volleyball Association has created the following standards, strategies, and policies to maximize the possibility of student-athletes meeting their academic goals.

I understand that I am obligated to comply with these conditions:

* The student-athlete grants permission for the Club Director of Newark Volleyball Association to contact that student-athlete’s school administration or educational program facilitator, to confirm the student meets the educational requirements set forth in this agreement.
* If at any time, the Newark Volleyball Association receives academic information that a student-athlete is not meeting his or her responsibilities (i.e. warning notices, probationary status notices, grade point average reduction, excessive absences notices, etc.) the Board of Directors will determine if playing or practice privileges will be restricted, suspended, or terminated, depending on the severity of the infraction and number of infractions.
* Any Student-Athlete who holds a failing grade for any course at the end of his or her school’s semester/quarter is not eligible to play in tournaments until said Student-Athlete holds a passing grade in said course.
* Any Student-Athlete who fails their current grade or does not have good academic standing as defined by said Student-Athlete’s educational authority is not eligible to participate and may be removed from the Newark Volleyball Association.

All prospective Student-Athletes shall live, worship, or attend school in Licking County, OH, as to be within reasonable driving distance to practice facilities rented or owned by the Newark Volleyball Association. Anyone wishing to dispute this stipulation may petition the Club Director by email and the Board of Directors (“Board”) will make a decision.

**Behavioral Expectations**

I understand that student-athletes are visible representatives of the Newark Volleyball Association both on court and off-court, whose behaviors are often closely scrutinized by the media and general public.  Student-athlete behavior affects public perception of institutional ethos, program standards, and the character of the team.  Therefore, it is an expectation that student-athletes will demonstrate consistent role model behavior, sportsmanship and self-control.  More specifically:

* Student-athletes must be committed to fair play.  Intentional acts of unsportsmanlike behavior or cheating will not be tolerated.
* When representing their teams during competition, student-athletes will exercise self-control in all ways including, but not limited to, resisting the use of profanity, demonstrating unnecessary aggression or hostility towards others, making inappropriate physical gestures, taunting or excessively celebrating, and disrespecting managers, coaches, officials, teammates, or opponents.
* Student-athletes are prohibited from interacting in any negative way with spectators.
* When interacting with the media, student-athletes are expected to remain positive and not use media interviews as a platform to share personal frustrations about the team, manager, head coach, assistant coach, the Newark Volleyball Association, or to make any negative comments about opponents or officials.
* Any actions that result in a student-athlete being sanctioned by school, local, state, or federal authorities, may also result in sanctions from the Newark Volleyball Association.
* Any Student-Athlete, whose behavior is deemed unsporting, lewd, or unacceptable in any way by the Club Director, Head Coach, or Manager during practices, tournaments, educational, charitable, or community services, or any other event attended or hosted by the Newark Volleyball Association, may be ineligible to play in the following tournament or even removed from the Newark Volleyball Association.

**Physical Conditioning and Training**

I understand that physical conditioning and training programs in preparation for athletics performance as designed and supervised by managers or coaches require intense physical activities, constant feedback, and creating benchmarks to maximize each student-athlete’s potential and team success.  I understand that participation in training and instruction is an educational process that requires collaboration between coaching staff and student-athletes, especially as such collaboration is intended to minimize the inherent risks associated with intense physical activities that can also be mentally and emotionally challenging. Therefore, I understand the need for and accept the following participation responsibilities:

* Report to my manager or head coach, any change in my physical, mental or emotional well being that may affect my ability to participate safely.  This includes any additions of prescription medications or over the counter supplements.
* Commit to completing all conditioning activities and practice sessions I am asked to perform, to ready me for the physical, mental, and emotional stress associated with my sport, unless I have documented limitations that have been approved by a professional authority such as a doctor.
* Refrain from outside activities that will enhance my risk of unsafe participation such as excessive exercise, alcohol consumption, use of non-prescription drugs, taking steroids or other performance enhancing or illegal drugs.
* Follow the guidelines given to me by my coaches and trainers regarding hydration, sleep, and nutrition.
* Communicate with my coach or trainer any time I feel any abnormal or labored physical response to exercise (i.e. pain, nausea, shortness of breath, dizziness, etc.) and to stop the activity immediately.
* Communicate with my coach or trainer any time I feel incapable of continuing to participate due to any physical, mental or emotional distress.  I understand that I will not be subjected to any retribution if I self-report physical, mental, or emotional distress and elect to discontinue participation and if I believe retribution took place, I am obligated to report such to the Club Director or Board of Directors.
* Communicate with my coach or athletic trainer if I come become aware of another student-athlete’s abnormal or labored physical, mental, or emotional response to any activity.
* Willingly discontinue participation any time coaching staff tells me to and, if applicable, follow their directives regarding follow-up meetings with appropriate professionals.

**Teamwork and Team Expectations**

I understand that team unity and team cohesion are key variables for a positive and successful athletic experience.  Commitment to team goals is essential which, at times, may take precedence over individual goals.  However, I understand that the Newark Volleyball Association does not subscribe to a team culture based on intimidation or mandatory allegiance to questionable practices and requires that all student-athletes be treated fairly by coaching staff and teammates.  Under these conditions, I understand that student-athletes are expected to exhibit a level of selflessness that promotes team goals.  More specifically:

* Student-athletes are expected to abide by all current USAV and OVR rules available on their websites.
* Student-athletes are expected to report any actions that establish a class system (hazing, initiations, etc.) to their manager or coach immediately.
* Student-athletes are expected to immediately report any behaviors they would describe as abusive by a manager, head coach, assistant coach, teammate, or a teammate’s legal guardian to the Club Director or the Board of Directors.
* Student-athletes and coaching staff are expressly prohibited from engaging in sexual intimacies and other forms of inappropriate conduct with each other.  Student-athletes are expected to immediately report any such behaviors, which serve to destroy the standard of impartiality and professional trust, which must be maintained by all members of a team.

**Attendance Standards**

I understand the Newark Volleyball Association has set attendance standards in place as to better provide the team with the necessary expertise in the different positions filled by student-athletes. Those who do not attend practice are not able to improve. In addition, the team is not able to practice with the individual who would normally play that position, negatively impacting the team’s practice. The Club Director may approve excused absences if the student-athlete has a scheduling conflict concerning another extra-curricular activity. Through this agreement, student-athletes agree to the following:

* Any Student-Athlete who fails to attend seventy-five percent (75%) of practices may be removed from the Newark Volleyball Association; unless, said Student-Athlete is unable to attend practice due to another scheduled event or known conflict, in which the Student-Athlete’s Voting Affiliate must notify the Team’s Manager or Head Coach and Director of this in writing, prior to said events or conflicts, in which said Student-Athlete must attend at least 50% of practices.
* Any Student-Athlete who is unexcused and absent from a tournament without twenty-four (24) hour notification of that Student-Athlete’s Head Coach or Manager, on more than one (1) occasion during a Team’s scheduled season, may be removed from the Newark Volleyball Association.

**Educational, Charitable, and Community Services**

I understand that a requirement of my participation in the Newark Volleyball Association is that I agree to be fully involved in charitable and community services as to better myself and give back to the community.

* All Student-Athletes are expected to participate in charitable and community service activities planned by the ECO, Club Director, Manager(s), Head Coach(s) or committee selected by the Board. If a Student-Athlete refuses to participate in said charitable or community services, that Student-Athlete may be removed from the Newark Volleyball Association, by majority vote of the Board in which quorum is met.
* Attendance of educational services is not mandatory for student-athletes.

**Prohibition of Retaliation**

Creating a culture of personal responsibility requires an assurance to the Newark Volleyball Association and student-athletes that no retaliation will occur against those who report governance association rules violations or misconduct policy violations.  Coaching staff and student-athletes are expected to report these concerns to the Club Director or Board of Directors, and are invited to utilize a representative for this purpose.

I agree to accept the participation standards and policies listed above and knowingly accept that violations of these standards may result in a variety of sanctions by the Newark Volleyball Association including, but not limited to restriction, suspension from, or termination of participation in the volleyball program.

***Waiver to use Personal Likeness***

Knowing my participation with this association’s activities are in plain view of the public and the Newark Volleyball Association uses photos and video taken during Company events to promote sponsors and the Company, I hereby agree to allow the likeness of myself, my child, and any other person that may attend a Company event under my supervision to be used by the Company.

**Waiver of Right to Sue**

Knowing my participation in this association is completely voluntary, on behalf of myself and any minor(s) for whom I am responsible, I unconditionally waive the right to sue the Newark Volleyball Association for damages, illness, injury, or death arising out of or relating to participation in any of the practices or tournaments, or educational, charitable, or community services hosted or events attended by said parties. This waiver also encompasses claims arising from or relating to the negligence of the Newark Volleyball Association, its manager(s), or head coach(s), or assistant coach(s) claims arising out of or relating to exposure to infectious diseases, and claims arising out of or relating to the condition of, or the use of, equipment owned or rented by the Newark Volleyball Association.

Legal Guardian’s Name (Voting Affiliate): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student-Athlete Signature:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_