

Spartan Wave Playing Time Policy

All Spartan Wave JO volleyball teams are to some degree developmental teams. That is, we exist to help provide opportunities for the personal and athletic development of our members. Spartan Wave recognizes that participation in competition is a critical part of each player's development. Moreover, we believe that taking part in spirited, pressure-packed competition is perhaps one of sport's greatest training tools.

We also believe our coaching staff shares the responsibility to develop an on-court role for each player that lends to the competitive success of the team. We will work tirelessly to insure all Spartan Wave players and teams are their best through developing and utilizing all of their talents.

Of course, the nature of sport and volleyball in particular dictates that not all players get equal playing time. Some players may play more than other players, simply because of the positions they each play. Coaches must weigh a myriad of items when deciding playing time. For instance, coaches must consider such issues as a player's adherence to attendance and other policies, keep in mind any trends currently operating within the team, and evaluate how the team personnel might match up best versus that of the opponent.

All players can expect to have an on-court role in every team event, so long as they abide by all club and team rules. Likewise, all players can expect to have some on-court role every match. We appreciate participants' and families' patience with small deviations from this policy.

As there are varying levels of competition, there should be varying levels of expectations with each event:

1. Power League (Relatively Equal Playing Time)

- a. Power League is a developmental opportunity for each player. Equal playing time means as equal as possible by position (setter, outside hitters, middle hitters, front row, back row) and within the power league day (multiple games and matches).
- b. Position by position difference: as equal as possible within positions, understanding that variances occur based upon number of players in the relative positions on the team (2 setters vs. 4 outside hitters).
- c. During the power league day: as there are typically 3 games per match, and 3 matches per day, players should expect relatively equal playing time within positions across the days collection of games, not in each game or match.

2. Tournaments (fair but not equal)

- a. Tournaments are a more competitive environment. Fair means that every player should play in every match. It may be either front row or back row, in one of the 2 or 3 games of the match.

- b. The level of competition may warrant a different player rotation than that of power league. A player that acutely struggles may have playing time limited in order to support her self-esteem. The coach will explain the reasons clearly to the player (and her parents if needed) and attempt to give the player extra instruction in practice to help develop the skills in question.
 - c. Likewise, there can also be a distinction between teams that are playing for medal positions within the gold division of a tournament versus teams competing for a lower finish in a given event. Coaches may on occasion alter player rotations to maximize the tournament finish position of those teams still competing in the gold division.
3. Differences by age group.
- a. All 10U and 12U teams will have equal playing time, as described above, in all events.
 - b. All 14U teams and above will have equal playing time in power league and fair but not equal playing time in tournaments, as described above.
 - c. 17-1 is the highest competitive team offered by Spartan Wave. 17-1 will have a playing time policy consistent with the tournament policy above. Playing time shall be fair, but not equal, in power league and well as tournament events as described above.