

Houston Stellar Information Sheet and Q & A

This document is meant to help answer some of the questions that you may have about the upcoming club season. This will take place of the parent meeting that we generally have at tryouts. We realize that things are very unpredictable right now, our strategy is to plan for a normal volleyball season and adjust as needed. Having said that we are super excited to put 2019-2020 behind us and look forward to Houston Stellar's 10th year anniversary year.

NEW - USA Volleyball Junior Age Definition

NOTE: The cut-off date has recently changed from Sept. 1 to July 1. In most cases your daughter should play in the age group of whatever grade she is in school.

Division	Born on or after
18	July 1, 2002
17	July 1, 2003
16	July 1, 2004
15	July 1, 2005
14	July 1, 2006
13	July 1, 2007
12	July 1, 2008
11	July 1, 2009

Sponsorship - Houston Stellar is a Nike club, meaning that all players and coaches are required to wear Nike head to toe at practices and tournaments. We are privileged to have this relationship and take it very seriously. All players in the club are issued 100% Nike gear including club shoes. All players are issued the same practice tees, spandex, socks, shoes, backpacks and warm up. As such all teams/players are required to wear club issued tee shirts and either navy or black spandex at all weekday practices. On Sunday we allow players to wear any Nike colored spandex or Nike Tempo shorts along with club issued practice tee. Any Nike shoes may be worn during practice and games. There are consequences if a player does not wear issued practice gear. The consequence will vary by coach but generally involves some type of team cardiovascular improvement.

Q: When does the season start?

A: We will ask coaches to hold mandatory team/parent meetings between November 16-25. The first on court practice starts the week after Thanksgiving starting on Monday November 30. 11's season will begin in January.

Q: When does the season end?

A: For local and select teams the season ends after Lonestar Regionals – generally first week of May. For Travel Teams the season ends after either USAVB or AAU National Championships.

Q: How many tournaments are scheduled?

A: 18's will have 8 tourneys, Travel Teams (12), Local and Select teams (10). 11's will have 8 tourneys. See Team Grid for details.

Q: How many players are on a team?

A: Generally, 10 or 11 players/team. In rare occasions we may have 12 on a team.

Q: Are parents allowed to watch practices?

A: Under normal circumstances yes. However, we will make that decision as we get closer to the start of the season. Currently, no spectators are allowed in the facility unless previously approved and arranged by Sara.

Q: Can we bring food and drink into the facility?

A: No, we do not allow outside food, drink or trash into the facility with the exception of personal water bottles. There is a outside dumpster in the back of the facility if you need to deposit trash from a restaurant, drinks etc.

Q: Are concessions available in the facility?

A: Yes, beverages and snacks are available in the front lobby. Stellar has an on your honor system that allows people to serve themselves and deposit the money into the bag provided. All items are \$1 or \$2. We ask that you provide exact change so that we eliminate the touching of money as much as possible. We are extremely proud of our members honestly with this privilege and except that will continue.

Q: Can we purchase additional practice gear like, tee shirts, spandex, socks etc?

A: Yes, you will be issued two practice tees, two pair of socks and 1 or 2 pair of spandex. You are welcome to purchase additional items from the store. The store is not opened every day of the week. Only if one of the owners or Asst. Directors are present.

Q: What out of state travel tournaments will Stellar attend?

A: We have not finalized schedules yet; however, we have made the decision to only attend tournaments that are drivable. The following cities are possibilities, Orlando, Atlanta, Kansas City, St. Louis, and Indianapolis.

Q: Will there be a Stellar banquet next year?

A: Unfortunately, No. We have decided to eliminate that from the calendar next year due to avoiding large crowds and the timing of Regionals.

Q: Will there still be Stellar Day?

A: Our intention is to have Stellar Day, however it would most likely take on a whole new direction involving players only. Unfortunately, the concept of 500 people in the gym is not in the cards next year. More details to follow.

Q: Will coaches be required to wear masks?

A: Yes, for the time being all coaches and all non-players in the facility will be required to wear a mask while inside the facility.

Q: Is hand sanitizer available at the facility?

A: Yes, we have two automatic sanitizer stations inside of the facility and we ask that all people sanitize hands upon entry. Players will be encouraged to sanitize often during practices. Furthermore, we have automatic soap and paper towel dispensers in the restrooms.

Q: Will I get my deposit back if the season does not happen?

A: No. The deposit is a non-refundable deposit required to assist with fixed expenses and the of purchase uniforms, apparel and equipment for the season. You will however receive all gear ordered for the season.

Q: What happens if the season does not happen?

A: Our strategy would be to continue training and practicing as a team through the season. We would coordinate as many scrimmages and games with other teams and clubs as possible. Dues at the point would be adjusted for the actual costs incurred. Members would have the option to opt if they choose not to participate.

Q: Will I get a refund of dues paid from Aug-Mar if the season does not occur or is shortened?

A: Yes, if you choose not to participate in the training that Stellar offers, we will refund 100% of all recoverable expenses plus any profit. Recoverable expenses are those which we would either not have to pay or would get refunded. We do however, rely on partial member dues to pay for some fixed annual expenses such as facility rent, equipment, insurance and taxes.

Q: Does Stellar move players up or down during the season?

A: Generally, no. Only in the case of a team losing a player for the season would we ask another player to switch teams. Also, in that case member dues may change depending on the team. Additionally, if a team is short on players for a tournament, we may ask a player from another team to fill in.

Q: Does Stellar guarantee equal playing time during tournaments?

A: No, playing time in tournaments is not equal nor guaranteed. Stellar coaches are asked to coach to win and put the best lineups on the court while ensuring that all players are provided opportunities to play when the coach sees fit. We utilize our practices to give players equal training opportunities.

Q: What is the 24-hour rule?

A: We ask that no parents approach or discuss playing time, position changes etc. with a coach while at a tournament? We instead ask that the parent wait at least 24 hours after the tournament to discuss with the coach or Assistant Directors. If the issue is still not resolved, we ask that you follow the chain of command below.

Q: What is the chain of command if we have an issue?

A: First, is always Player to Coach. Second: Player/Parent to Coach. Third, Parent to Assistant Director. Fourth, if necessary, Parent to Club Director. If a meeting is requested, it will be with the Assistant Director of the age group along with the coach.

Q: What is the Management Staff of Houston Stellar?

A: Owners: Sara and Scott Zanon. Club Director – Sara, Business Dir.-Scott, Assistant Directors – Nancy Cole (18's-17's), Christian Dunn (16's-15's), Ricky Perez (14's-13's), Rachael Seigner (12's-11's and Developmental)

Q: Who do I contact regarding Recruiting questions?

A: Nancy Cole and Christian Dunn head up our recruiting efforts. They will be scheduling a recruiting meeting for early fall. If you have questions before then feel free to reach out to either of them.

Q: If I have questions about payments who do I contact?

A: Robin Coonfield is our Finance Manager. Robin sends out all invoices and is responsible for all monthly payments. Robin's email address is: finance.hsvc@gmail.com.

Q: Are player travel expenses included in the dues?

A: No, families are responsible arranging and paying for all transportation, lodging and food expenses for players. This is not included in the dues.

Q: Do we book our own flights if we are on a travel team?

A: Yes, families are responsible for booking their own flights to tournaments. We will communicate the schedule once it is finalized.

Q: Can we stay at any hotel we choose for out of town tournaments?

A: Unfortunately, no! Most of the tournaments we attend are called stay and play. That means that we are required to stay at one of the approved hotels in order to play in the tournament. This is not an ideal process as many times we are at the mercy of what hotels are available from the tournament. We do our best to get quality hotels near the facility, but many times it is out of our control. Once we receive a hotel block it will be emailed to your team. You then must immediately reserve a room from the block by putting down your own credit card. We cannot stress enough the timeliness of making your reservation. Please do not wait. Once the room block expires, we cannot get those rooms back.