

SCVL Members,

One of the many things that set SCVL apart from other volleyball leagues is its aim to balance the competition of athletics with the fun of social interaction. The league was founded to provide a safe space and haven for LGBTQIA+ players and friends to get together to play a sport they love and enjoy each other's' company, and we carry that goal forward in our mission to this day, even as the league has grown many times over.

So we take it very seriously when our league members, through unsportsmanlike behavior, cause other league members not to enjoy the time that we spend together each Sunday. Toward the end of last season, the Board was made aware of several behaviors that were very concerning to us:

- Unsportsmanlike and undignified behavior by a player toward the opposing team after winning a hard-fought match
- Unsportsmanlike and disrespectful interactions with up-refs by aggressively challenging ball-handling judgment calls (which has been an issue now for several seasons)
- Unsportsmanlike and unmentor-like attitude and behavior toward teammates of a higher-level player serving as a mentor in a lower division





Let there be no mistake that these sorts of behaviors are not in keeping with the mission and [Code of Conduct](#) of the league. These are behaviors that would be sanctioned with yellow and red cards in a volleyball tournament, and which cannot be left unaddressed. We are not a league that believes in using yellow and red cards (but, 💎 rhinestone-encrusted rainbow cards, anyone? 💎), as we feel that behavior should never reach such a point in our safe space.

We want to remind all members that our goal is for you to have fun. Whether fun for you comes from the enjoyment of playing competitive volleyball, or from getting to spend a few hours together with your friends being yourself, or from helping others grow to their potential, it is important to remember that your sense of fun may differ from your teammate's, and that is a wonderful thing!


It is important to remember that our players come from all walks of life, and many come from vulnerable communities that are subject to discrimination and bullying. LGBTQIA+ individuals are almost three times more likely than others to experience a mental health condition compared to their non-LGBTQIA+ peers. Our league was founded at a time when acceptance and visibility were being pioneered, and there is still more work to be done! As a league, we are truly special—no matter where you come from, you can belong to something where you fit in just the way you are.


And while we recognize that every person's idea of fun may be different, there are some standards of behavior we expect from all players to help make our league the welcoming environment it should be. Everyone has a bad day that puts them in a lousy mood, and we understand that. But it is important to remember to keep that attitude in check: it's OK to show up with negative thoughts, but it is *never* OK during SCVL to let that bad mood influence your actions, and adversely affect the people around you. That includes teammates, opponents, refing teams, facility staff, or anyone else you might meet on SCVL time. Playing in SCVL should be an uplifting experience for all. Take your frustrations out on the ball, and do your best to have fun!


If you see something that doesn't seem right to you, or want to talk, we are always here to listen. **Our mission is to provide a fun, safe, volleyball space for LGBTQIA+ players, allies and friends to be themselves.** Let's please keep that in mind in this and future seasons, and have a great time as friends playing the sport we love!

  Yours in volleyball and unicorns  ,

The SCVL Executive Board

Jeffrey Krsul, President 

Matthew Kramar, Vice-President 

Tracy Gibbs, Secretary 

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