

Tournament Survival Guide

All tournaments are run differently but there are a few basic guidelines that you should know.

Start and end times will vary and it is often not known until a few days beforehand when and where we must be for a tournament. Coaches will get the information to the players as soon as possible. Driving directions to tournament sites can be found for most locations on www.fcelite.org under directions.

Most tournaments will start between 8:00am and 9:00am. They can last the entire day, so it is wise to not plan other activities on tournament dates due to out-of-town travel and the possibility of playing late into the day.

Tournaments will usually consist of a 4 or 5 team pool. Pool play is usually followed by a single elimination playoff. Again, this will vary depending on the tournament format. Teams will be required to supply referees, line judges and score keepers. All team members are expected to stay at the tournament until excused by the coaching staff.

You will find that often there is not adequate seating at the event so it is a good idea to invest in a portable fold-up canvas chair. They come in handy when the bleachers are full or there are no bleachers.

The temperature in the facility is often up for grabs - sometimes cold, sometimes steaming. Bring clothing for both players and spectators to cover each extreme.

Most tournaments provide some form of food concessions. Some tournaments do not allow carry-ins. It will usually be stated in the tournament information you receive if the site does not allow for carry-in food and drink. Please check with the coach before taking your son/daughter offsite for lunch.

Please remember that while we are in a competitive environment, we still need to abide by the USA Volleyball code of behavior. Referees will make mistakes, but it is unlikely a team will ever lose due to officiating. Please support officiating decisions, even if you feel they are incorrect. Players are normally keeping score and line judging and trying to do their best. Support them as well as they work hard to be correct.

Winter Driving

Don't forget to check winter driving conditions before you travel to allow for adequate time and safe passage. **TOURNAMENTS ARE NOT CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER.**