

TO WIN vs TO LEARN HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

Here's reality in youth volleyball: The team that makes the least amount of mistakes, WINS a vast majority of the time. That is not to say that the winner is playing the game correctly or learning skills that will allow them to develop as a volleyball player in the future. Playing the ball right back over the net on your first contact will definitely win you more points. It may also insure that you need to learn to play another sport as you get older because you will have no concept of how to play the game of volleyball correctly.

Since three contacts are allowed on your side of the net, you have up to three contacts to "improve" your chances to score a point. As the game is designed, that would be a PASS, a SET, and an ATTACK. At beginning or younger levels of volleyball, it may mean that you have three chances to mess up and lose the point. The coaches of The Victors VBC believe that it is worth the risk of losing the point or even the set (game), to learn to play the game correctly.

In the past, we hosted a Coaches Clinic by the Sports Performance Volleyball Club. For those of you that are not familiar with that program, they are one of the most successful programs in the country at winning National Championships in Junior Volleyball. What they stated to over a hundred coaches in attendance was, "We don't care if our 12s, 13s and 14s ever win a game, as long as they learn to play the game correctly". They also do not specialize positions at the younger age levels in order to develop well-rounded players.

We believe in both of these philosophies and incorporate them for our younger teams.

We also believe that well-meaning parents sitting in the stands yelling "just hit the ball back over" or telling their players to do so between games, is counterproductive to what our coaches are teaching.

Volleyball is a skill intensive sport. It is very difficult to learn and even harder to excel at. It takes time. While the average gymnast on a National Team is likely 17 years old, the average volleyball player on such a team is more likely to be 25 years old. It takes time to get good at this sport!

We appreciate your support for our teams and know that everybody would rather win rather than lose. You should understand that our coaches get more excited about a SET following a PASS or DIG, and an ATTACK following a SET, than we do scoring a point by ping-ponging the ball right back over the net.

We believe that our mission is to teach young players the skills that will make them highly successful volleyball players of the future.

The Victors VBC Staff