

OUTDOOR VOLLEYBALL League Rules

Updated June, 2023

www.ci.lacey.wa.us 360-491-0857

LACEY
PARKS
& RECREATION

The outdoor summer volleyball leagues are self-officiated and operate on the honor system. Players call their own faults and those of their teammates only.

Self Officiating = No Attitudes *The intent of the league is to provide a challenging physical activity in a social, sportsmanlike and friendly atmosphere. We do not expect every player to agree with every subjective call or non-call, but we do need and expect every player to act in a sportsmanlike manner*

Do not call faults on your opponents, or argue with your opponents about non-calls. Disagreements must be settled in a sportsmanlike manner by the players on the court. All players please read the rules:

I. **Divisions / Levels of Play**

Please follow the guidelines listed in the "Classifications for Volleyball Divisions of Play" posted on our website.

II. **Rulebook**

The USA Outdoor Volleyball rules are used as general guideline. Exceptions and variations as listed in these pages. Complete rules of volleyball are available at www.USAVolleyball.org

III. **Uniforms**

There is no requirement for matching or numbered uniforms. Hats, visors and sunglasses are allowed at the players' own risk. Players may be barefoot, or wear socks or booties. Shoes with flexible soles may be worn, but absolutely no cleats or spikes. No jewelry, pins, casts or other objects which might cause injury.

IV. **Nets / Courts Size / Game Balls**

Women's & Reverse Coed net height is 7'4 1/8"

Standard Coed net height is 7' 11 5/8"

On-site staff will have all nets up & lines out when you arrive. Since there may be many nets to deal with, however, it is each team's responsibility to fine-tune the height and square out the lines before the scheduled start time for the first match.

Fours courts are 29' 6 x 29' 6 on each side. No center lines.

Fours Reverse courts have a 10ft line

The home team, listed first, serves first & provides a leather or synthetic official outdoor game ball.

v. Self-Officiating & Conduct

The intent of the league is to provide a challenging physical activity in a social, sportsmanlike and friendly atmosphere. We do not expect every player to agree with every subjective call or non-call, but we do need and expect every player to act in a sportsmanlike manner.

1. Matches are to be self-officiated in the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie.
2. All players are expected to know and follow the rules.
3. Players may only call faults of their own and of their teammates.
4. Players may not call opponent's faults or argue with opponents.
5. Disagreements and rule clarifications must be settled in a sportsmanlike manner during a dead ball or between games by the players on the court.
6. The following behavior is prohibited at league facilities:
 - Use of foul language;
 - Arguing, taunting, or unsportsmanlike conduct;
 - Use or possession of alcohol;
 - Illegal activity;
 - Grabbing or pulling the nets, poles or tie-down ropes in a manner that damages the equipment and/or delays play;

The league supervisor reserves the right to suspend, without refund, any player or team that is unable to abide by conduct guidelines or park use rules.

VI. Spectators/ Children

Friends and family are welcome! Rules of conduct apply to all. If you bring your children to matches, you are responsible for providing appropriate supervision to ensure they are safe and do not disrupt play.

VII. Player Eligibility

1. Players must be registered in an appropriate league for their skill level. Please follow the guidelines listed in the "Classifications for Volleyball Divisions of Play" posted on our website.
2. No player is eligible to participate until they have completed & signed the roster.
3. Players may join multiple leagues, so long as the as the leagues aren't scheduled to play on the same night. Players may only appear on one roster in each league.
4. Players under the age of 18 must have a league waiver form signed by their parent or legal guardian before participating. (Underage Waiver for Volleyball League available on website.)
5. To be eligible for playoffs, players must have signed the roster and played in at least 2 regular- season matches.

Please note: Rosters will be available for signing at the field each week until playoffs begin.

VIII. Roster Maximums

1. Maximum of 6 players on a "Fours" roster

IX. **No Grace Period, Enough Players To Play?**

No grace periods, but as a Parks and Recreation program, we have generous minimums to start & end a game. Please review the minimums for your division listed below:

- **In Standard Coed Fours:** A minimum of two players to start and end a game. At least one player has to be a woman.
- **In Reverse Coed Fours:** A minimum of two players to start and end a game. At least one player has to be a man.
- **In Women's or Men's Fours:** A minimum of two players to start and end a game.
- **Late players:** Late arriving rostered players can jump in during a dead ball.

X. **Gender Blenders. How many Women & Men can be on the court?**

Okay, what are the gender combinations of eligible, rostered players that you may field or must field to avoid forfeit?

- **In Standard Coed Fours:** A maximum of two men and a minimum of one woman must be on the court. Acceptable combinations are: (1w/1m; 1w/2m; 2w/0m; 2w/1m; 2w/2m; 3w/0m; 3w/1m; 4w/0m)
- **In Reverse Coed Fours:** A maximum of two women and a maximum of two men may be on the court. A minimum of one women and one man must be on the court. Acceptable combinations in Reverse Coed Fours are: (1w/1m; 1w/2m; 2w/1m; 2w/2m)
NEW: If a coed team fields more than two women on the court during a **Reverse Coed Fours** game, the additional women will be designated as 'male' (ineligible to hit from in front of 10ft line & ineligible to block women during that game.)

XI. **Substitutions or Rotations**

- **In Fours Leagues:** Extra players may "rotate" or "sub" in. teams may choose to use the "substation" or "rotation" during a game, but they may not use a combination of both during the same game.

XII. **Match Format**

- Teams are scheduled for two matches, each night. Home team, listed first, serves first & provides game ball (must be official outdoor ball). Each match consists of two games, rally scoring.
- "Fours" games are to 25, win by "2"; Dbles games are to 21, win by "2".

XIII. **Standings/ Playoffs / Awards**

Standings are kept by total games won/lost and updated weekly standings are posted by Monday on our website. Regular season standings determine divisional playoff groupings.

1. To be eligible for playoffs, players must have signed the roster and played in at least 2 regular- season matches.
2. Teams that forfeit 4 matches or 7 games are ineligible for playoffs or awards.

Blocking /Hitting Rules

- **All Leagues:** The serve may not be blocked or attacked.
- **In Standard Coed Fours:** All players are eligible to hit/ block.
- **In Reverse Coed Fours:**
 - Women's height net & 10 ft lines are set up in Reverse Coed.
 - Men may only block men.
 - Men are considered "back-row players": When on or in front of the 10 ft. line, male players must hit the ball with an upward trajectory and the ball must travel at least 1 ball height above the point where the ball was contacted.
 - **NEW** If a team fields more than two women on the court, during a Reverse Fours game, the additional women will be designated as 'male' (ineligible to hit from in front of 10ft line & ineligible to block women during that game.)

Scoring/ Serving / Playing / Rotations / Timeouts

1. Teams play 2 matches (4 games) per night. Each match consists of 2 games to 25 pts. Standings are kept by total games won/lost.
2. Rally scoring
3. Home team, listed first, serves first. Visitors choose side. Vice-versa for second game of the match.
4. Do not switch sides, except between games.
5. Service order, once established, must be maintained. In Standard & Reverse Coed Fours, alternate w/m when possible.
6. Teams are responsible for keeping score. The server **MUST** announce the score **LOUDLY & CLEARLY** prior to serving.
7. **The serve may not be blocked OR attacked.**
8. In Fours, extra players may "rotate" or "sub" in.
9. Players are free to position themselves anywhere within their court. There are no 'position' violations.
10. Two, 30 second timeouts per team, per game. Time outs may be called by any player during a dead ball.
11. Time outs may **not** be called to delay the start of a game.

Net Contact Rule

12. Contact with the net by a player is not a fault, unless the player :
 - a. touches the top band of the net during her/his action of playing the ball, or
 - b. takes support from the net simultaneously with playing the ball, or
 - c. creates an advantage over the opponent, or
 - d. makes actions which hinder an opponent's legitimate attempt to play the ball, or
 - e. causes the outdoor net to collapse or partial collapse in a manner that causes a delay before play can resume.

Players Positions

13. Players are free to position themselves anywhere within their court. There are no 'position' or "overlap" violations outdoors.

Line Violations

14. There are no centerline violations. You may ***go completely under the net*** into your opponent's court to play a ball as long as there is no interference with the opponent.

15. If the line moves when the ball hits it, the shot is "in".

16. Players ***may not*** step on or into an adjoining court while attempting to play or playing a ball.

Ballhandling in General

17. When playing a hard-driven ball, (except on the serve receive) it can be double-hit and momentarily lifted. Open hand digs are okay.

18. Dinks and Tips are allowed (Dink: A softly hit ball that falls just over the net. Tip: When a player tips the ball with their fingers; permitted, as long as the player does not throw or hold the ball). You may not hold and throw the ball downward.

19. A player may have successive contacts (double hit) during a single attempt to make the teams first contact PROVIDED THE FINGERS ARE NOT USED (setting action) TO DIRECT THE BALL. (i.e. if you double hit the first contact in a setting attempt it is a fault. However, if you attempt to set the first contact and contact it cleanly, you're okay).

20. The ball must be contacted cleanly and not held, pushed, caught, carried, or thrown. The ball cannot roll or come to rest on any part of a player's body. It can rebound in any direction. (An exception shall be allowed during the defensive play of a *hard-driven* ball. In that case the ball may be temporarily lifted or pushed.)

21. **In REVERSE ONLY:** When a male player/designated male inside the 10 ft line directs the ball to the opponent's court, the player must hit the ball with an upward trajectory and the ball must travel at least 1 ball height above the point where contact was made.

22. The USAV rules are used only as a general guideline. Exceptions are listed in these pages.

23. Complete rules of volleyball are available at www.USAVolleyball.org

WINNING TEAMS MUST REPORT THE SCORE TO THE FIELD SUPERVISOR

Verbal abuse of players, fans, or staff is unsportsmanlike. The league director and staff reserve the right to suspend or expel players, teams, or fans without refund.

Lacey strives to have clean, safe and well-maintained parks.

Please let our staff know if you have any concerns about your park facility.

laceyparks@ci.lacey.wa.us

www.ci.lacey.wa.us

Questions or Concerns? Please contact our on-site staff or call the Lacey Parks & Recreation Department Office 360-491-0857 (M-F, 8am – 5pm)

The league supervisor reserves the right to revise rules in the best interest of the league.

please submit suggestions for rule changes before league begins to

sfinney@ci.lacey.wa.us

360-491-0857