



## **Youth Volleyball Rules**

### **DIVISIONS**

- 2nd-4th, 5th-6th, 7th-8th, HS. Advanced 7-8 teams may play in HS division.
- High School will play games against other CARA teams around the Denver-Metro area.

### **ROSTERS**

- All grade divisions play with 6 players on the court.
- Minimum of 4 players to avoid a forfeit.
- Maximum of 12 players on a roster.
- Teams are allowed to share players between different teams during a game day to avoid forfeit.
- Roster changes may not be made after the 4th week of the regular season.

### **REGULAR SEASON GAME DAY FORMATS**

- 5th-6th, 7th/8th, and HS will play all games to 21, cap 23.
- 2-4 division will play all games to 15, cap 17.
- All divisions will use rally scoring.
- Teams must win by 2 unless they have reached the cap.
- Home coaches will officiate games throughout the season with players line-judging

### **GAME DAY LOCATIONS**

South Suburban Sports Complex – 4810 E County Line Road, Littleton, 80126

### **PRE AND POST-MATCH RITUAL**

- All Divisions will begin each match by lining up on the end line of their side, the official will blow the whistle and each team will follow their side line to the net. Each player and coach are required to slap hands under the net and say “good luck” to every other player and coach.
- At the end of each match teams will repeat this ritual and say “good game”. Teams and players refusing to practice good sportsmanship will be reported.

### **UNIFORMS**

All teams are required to wear matching shirts that display their agency logo or information. Libero’s must wear contrasting uniforms.

### **OFFICIATING DUTIES:**

Each team is required to provide the following:

- Scorekeepers – We encourage you to use your players and parents, if the players are in 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> an adult is required to assist.

While the official has ultimate judgment for game calls, coaches are encouraged to help move players back on serves, accurately monitor and utilize player substitutions, address unruly spectators or parents from their team and help control the sportsmanship of everyone involved. The head referee has elastic power over each game and rule interpretation. They may make reasonable rulings on all areas of the game and their decisions are final. If you have a concern about a referee's fairness and consistency, please address the site supervisor so they can discuss with that referee directly.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

This policy will be enforced during all games and can be implemented by the up referee and/or staff at the host facility. If any participant, coach or spectator exhibits any kind of poor sportsmanship they will be given one warning (at the discretion of the host- dependent on the severity of the violation) and if they continue the behavior, they will be asked to leave the facility. Police will be involved in the removal if necessary.

Poor sportsmanship includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Yelling at, or negatively addressing (cursing, name calling, etc) any Line Judge, Referee, Coach or Player for ANY reason.
- Only coaches and captains are allowed to communicate with Referees, Line Judges, and Score Keepers. If spectators, parents or players have a complaint they need to address it after the match is completed and with their own coach first. The coach can determine if it is necessary discuss with their agency coordinator.
- Disrespecting the facility, including vandalism of any kind and not picking up your trash.
- Rude gestures towards any Line Judge, Referee, Coach or Player, including but not limited to:
- Not shaking an opponent's hand after a match, spitting in your hands prior to shaking an opponent's hand, and any other inappropriate hand signs.
- Physical contact with any Line Judge, Referee, Coach or Player such as shoving, hitting, kicking or throwing things. This will result in immediate removal from the facility.

Coaches demonstrating poor sportsmanship will be reported to their coordinator and the volleyball committee and will be under review and may be subject to further suspension from upcoming tournaments. If the situation calls for the coach to be ejected from the tournament at with no fault of the players on the team, a parent may continue as "coach" for the tournament as to allow the team to finish without forfeit.

Players and/or spectators will be reported first to their coach and the host at the tournament. If the behavior continues, the players or spectator will be reported to their coordinator and the volleyball committee and will be under review and may be subject to further suspension from upcoming tournaments.

### **GAME PLAY**

- **Player Contact of Equipment:** It is illegal for players to touch the net.

- **Centerline Violations:** If any part of the body completely crosses the center line and contacts the floor it is illegal. If the body part in question is still touching any part of the center line, there is no violation.

- **Time Outs:** All divisions are allowed one-30 second time out per set.

- **Substitutions:**

- All divisions must rotate every side out.
- For 2-4 and 5-6 divisions, teams must substitute one player out and a new player in out of Middle Back each side out. Officials do not have to whistle in substitutes in these divisions. Officials can monitor playing time and hold coaches to the expectation that every player plays the same amount.
- The 7-8 and HS divisions may sub player-for-player. However, all players must receive equal playing time in every match and cannot serve more often than once every 6 rotations. Officials can monitor playing time to make sure teams stay in rotation, and every player is receiving equal playing time.
- Referees are allowed to penalize a team for making incorrect substitutions after a warning is given. This can include: not subbing certain players in or out due to their skill level; having a certain player serve more often than every 6 rotations; or any other illegal substitutions.
- The penalty is a side out. One point and the ball will be awarded to the opponent.

- **Co-Ed Rules:**

- Males and females must alternate positions on the court if there are 2 or more males.
- The males must rotate in and out to give equal playing time to all participants per team.
- For the HS division, a female player must touch the ball before it is returned over the net. The only exception is a block.

- **Passing:**

- A serve may be received with a forearm (bump) pass or overhead pass. Although double contact on any first ball over is legal, the ball may never be held or lifted.
- Double Contact is penalized when a player hits the ball twice in succession or the ball contacts various parts of his/her body in succession.
- The ball may touch any part of the body. Provided that the contacts take place simultaneously.

- **Setting:**

- All divisions are encouraged to set the ball. When judging a legal or illegal set the division should be taken into consideration:
  - 2-4 and 5-6 should only be called for an illegal set when the player contacts the ball in one body quadrant and release the ball into a different body quadrant.
  - 7-8 should be called illegal when an obvious lift or double contact is present.
  - HS: all lifts, carries or obvious double contacts called. This division should have relatively clean sets.

- **Blocking:**

- Blocking is encouraged for all divisions. A block must be contacted no further than a foot and a half from the net. A block is not considered to be one of the three touches allowed on each side.
- A serve may not be blocked or attacked.
- No backrow player may participate in a block.

• **Let Serve:** Let serves are allowed in all divisions and is defined as a serve that touches the net while crossing into the opponents' court and remaining inside the boundaries of the court.

• **2 Hit Rule:**

The 2 hit rule requires a team to hit the ball 2 times before returning it to the opponent, regardless of where the ball is hit or where the player is when they hit the ball. **The 2 hit rule is in effect for division 5-6.** The 2 hit rule is **NOT** in effect in the following situations:

- Return of service.
- The ball is successfully blocked. The player needs to be at the net when they leave the ground or contact the ball. 5-6 do not have to leave the ground but it is encouraged. The setting motion is ok for players that cannot break the plane of the net. Players must contact the ball above their head, with 2 hands.
- The ball is successfully attacked at the net. Player must contact the ball as close to the net as possible. The ball must be contacted above the players head, with one hand.
- The ball is a hard driven when: on an attack the ball is below the height of the antenna and there is some power behind it. The amount of "power" is at the discretion of the referee. The ball must be contacted with one hand. The ball has very little arch on it and if it is passed by the defending team there is a good chance the player will not have enough control on the ball to keep it on their side.

• **Service Run Rule:**

- No point is awarded when the ball changes sides due to the Service Run Rule. This rule exists to help keep matches fun and exciting for both players and spectators. There is no catch-up rule.
- Maximum consecutive serves per player:
  - o 2-4: 3 serves
  - o 5-6 & 7-8: 5 serves
  - o HS: no max

• **Libero:**

- Since the recreation philosophy is to encourage equal play and learning opportunities for everyone, the use of a Libero and other specialized positions are not allowed in 2-4 and 5-6. Specialized positions may be used in 7-8 and HS, but all players must be allowed to try any specialized position they wish to try and players must still receive equal playing time.
- Liberos should bring a different shirt or jersey to wear for identification.
- Liberos may not hand set any ball while their feet are positioned on, or in front of, the 10' line.
- The Libero may not break the plane of the net to attack any ball. Liberos may not participate in any blocking action.

- **Serving:**

- All coaches are required to move players back as far as they can and still maintain success. Referees may move a player back. This includes over hand servers who are stepping into the court for execution. Each server has 5 seconds to complete the serve after the 1st referee blows the whistle and motions for serve. Servers are allowed 2 total tosses for each over hand serve. They must contact the second toss or a side out will be called.
- Each division must stay behind their appropriate service line as mentioned in the rule breakdown section. A good rule of thumb is that if your server is serving beyond the middle of the opposing team's defense, then your player should move back.

- **Foot faults:**

- Foot faults will be called in the **HS Division only**. Teams should be given a warning first, and then they will be called for the foot fault.
- All other division should abide by their modified service lines. No foot faults will be called, but players and coaches should be notified of the foot fault and correct it for the next serve.
- When a jump serve is executed, the player must take off from behind the serving boundary; ball may be contacted inside the boundaries of the playing area.
- If there is not the USAV recommended space of 6'6 ¾" space behind the service line, players may foot fault.

- **Re-Serve:**

- A re-serve shall be called when the server releases the ball for service, then catches it or drops it to the floor. The referee shall cancel the serve and direct a second and last attempt at serve.
- One re-toss is allowed for each service attempt.

- **Backrow Attack:**

- The official shall call a violation when any backrow player jumps and breaks the plane of the net while attempting to send any ball over the net, if that player was in the front zone.
- Backrow players (with the exception of the Libero) may jump from behind the 10' line and land in the front zone without a violation.

- **Jewelry:** Jewelry such as necklaces, bracelets and dangling earrings are not allowed. Exceptions: small earrings that can be covered with tape or bandage, religious medallion taped to the chest, medical alert bracelet. Hair clips, bobby pins and headbands less than 2" in width are allowed.

## Volleyball Rules

2nd-4th		5th/6th	
Ball	Volley-Lite	Ball	Volley-Lite
Net Height	6'6"	Net Height	7'4 1/8"
Underhand Service Line	10ft line	Underhand Service Line	5ft from end line
Overhand Service Line	10ft line	Overhand Service Line	5ft from end line
Time-Outs	1-30 sec per set	Time-Outs	1-30 sec per set
Service Run Rule	3 serves	Service Run Rule	5 serves
2 Hit Rule	No	2 Hit Rule	Yes
Substitutions	Into Middle Back	Substitutions	Into Middle Back
Libero	No	Libero	No
7th/8th		HS	
Ball	Regulation Ball	Ball	Regulation Ball
Net Height	7'4 1/8"	Net Height	7'4 1/8"
Underhand Service Line	End line	Underhand Service Line	End line
Overhand Service Line	5ft from end line	Overhand Service Line	End line
Time-Outs	1-30 sec per set	Time-Outs	1-30 sec per set
Service Run Rule	5 serves	Service Run Rule	No
2 Hit Rule	No	2 Hit Rule	No
Substitutions	Player for Player or MB	Substitutions	Player for Player or MB
Libero	Yes	Libero	Yes

### Weather:

Call or check the rainout line app for information regarding weather cancellations.

*South Suburban RainOut Line*  
 303-219-1150 (extension #10)

### Elastic Power:

The South Suburban Athletics staff reserves the right to establish guidelines for any and all rules or infractions not covered in the league rules and to refuse participation to any individual or coach if they do not obey the rules and regulations and keep within the spirit of sportsmanship.

### Comments on the Rules:

These rules are intended to create a balance of play; to create an atmosphere of sportsmanship and fair play; and to emphasize cleverness and skill without limiting freedom of individuals or team play. It is important to know the intent and purpose of a rule so that it may be intelligently applied in each play situation. A player or team should not be permitted an advantage which is not intended by a rule. Play will not be permitted to develop which may lead to placing a player at a disadvantage not intended by a rule