

Tournament Rules

Tournament Format

1. Teams are divided into pools and compete in a seeded bracket. All teams in each pool will advance into a single elimination tournament. A division with 5 teams will have pool play only.
2. All teams are guaranteed a minimum of 8 sets. **Teams are required to bring their own balls.**
3. Pool Play: Rally scoring will be used. Three (3) and Four (4) team pools will play 2 sets to 20 (win by 1). Five (5) team pool play matches will consist of 2 sets to 25 points (win by 1), 30 point cap.
4. Bracket Play: All single elimination tournament matches will be played best 2 out of 3 sets. Set 1 and 2 will be to 25 points (win by 2 with a point cap to 30) and the 3rd set will be to 15 (win by 2, 21 point cap). Scoring may be adjusted if time conflicts arise.
5. There will be **no break** between pool play and tournament games. All teams are encouraged to stay at the gym throughout the tournament. Game time will be forfeit time. Failure for a team to appear with at least (4) players at the scheduled time or failure to play when directed by the gym supervisor shall cause all sets to be forfeited.
6. Teams shall consist of (6) players. A team may play with as few as 4 players. In coed, teams may have (4) women and (2) men on the court. **A coed team** may play with (3) men and (2) women but a side-out and point will be awarded to the opposing team each time the missing woman is absent from serving. A women's team will have the Ghost Rule (1 point awarded to opposing team when server is absent) applied to them if missing a person. Please let the up official know where your missing woman is in your rotation before the match starts. You may play with three in the front row on every rotation.
7. Teams are required to supply one scorekeeper, one up official, one down official, and two line judges. Officials must be ready to officiate at game time. **Failure to provide all officials and/or failure to show up at game time will result in a forfeit of the next scheduled match, or previous match won if pool play is already completed. Please bring whistles.**
8. **Tie Breaker: (the following will be determined in order to determine bracket seeding)**
 - 1) Bet Set (games) Record, 2) Head to Head Record, 3) Head to Head Point Differential, 4) Total Point Differential (total points scored for and against all opponents) in all sets played, 5) Coin toss

Tournament Registration

1. Each team must submit a registration form and pay the appropriate fee.
2. Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.
3. The roster on the registration form must be completely filled out prior to the first game.
4. The roster will be limited to 10 players.
5. Participants may not play for more than one team in a division. You may play for one women's team and one coed team.

General Playing Rules

1. Serves may be underhand or overhand.
2. Blocking or attacking the ball on the serve is illegal in front of the foot line.
3. The ball may touch the net on the serve.
4. Attacking from the back row is not permitted, unless behind the 10 foot line.
5. Spiking is allowed in all divisions.
6. Each team is limited to (1) time-out per set. Charged time-outs shall not exceed 30 seconds.
7. If your team number appears in parentheses on your schedule then your team needs to provide officials. If your team fails to provide officials then your team will forfeit its next game.

Additional Rules for Coed Divisions

1. When more than (1) hit occurs on a side at least one female player must hit the ball.
2. No more than (3) men or less than (2) men may be on the court at one time. For teams of (4), the ratio of men to women must be equal.

Replays

1. If a ball from another court comes on your court and interferes with play, a replay may be called. Please wait for the official to call the replay. Replays are a judgment called by the official
2. When a joust occurs (two opponents momentarily blocking/attacking the ball), a replay will not be called. The ball will be played on whichever side the ball comes. The team will then have three hits remaining.

Obstructions

1. Bleachers, walls, and curtains are considered out-of-bounds.
2. A ball striking the ceiling or any overhead obstruction shall remain in play provided the ball hits the ceiling or obstruction on the side of the net occupied by the team that last played the ball within the 3-hit limit.

Substitutions and Player Rotations

1. The serving order and positions on the court at service shall be male and female alternated or vice-versa.
2. Substitutions are on the honor's system or at the referee's discretion.

Sportsmanship

1. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated by players or fans on or off the court.
2. Any profanity or argument made from a player on a judgment call by the official will be subject to one point being taken off the score. A second profanity and/or argument will result in the game being forfeited.
3. If a player is ejected from a game, that player may not play in the rest of the tournament.

Courtesy

1. Please hold on to all balls along side of court while game is in play.
2. **Food and Drink must be kept out of all gyms. This will be enforced at all times during the tournament.**
3. Please throw away any trash that you may have during the tournament.

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