



**SPORTS AND ATHLETICS SECTION
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

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2016 GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

CO-ED, WOMEN'S AND MEN'S WINTER/SPRING/SUMMER VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE(S)

(Please distribute copies to your players. Shaded areas indicate changes in rules from previous season.)

I. LEAGUE LEADERSHIP

- A. Volleyball leagues have been established to accommodate amateur teams interested in playing volleyball in New Castle County. An amateur is anyone who is not under professional contract during the current year and/or season of play.
- B. The volleyball league will be under the direction of the League Executive Committee that will consist of the Program Supervisor of the Department of Community Services, the Recreation Coordinator, and select managers from each division, and the Assignor for the official's association.
- C. It shall be the duty of the Sports Administrator to call all meetings of the Executive Committee. Three or more team managers in the league may request a meeting.
- D. The volleyball coordinator will be responsible for direct supervision of the playing facility, general management of the game, enforcement of New Castle County and league rules and regulations, recording the results and maintaining league standings.

II. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- A. The recommended age for participation in the volleyball program is 18 years or older by the start of the season. **Note:** Two (2) 16 - 17 year old players are permitted but must provide parental approval and be approved by the program supervisor.
- B. Rosters may not exceed 15 players.
- C. Complete rosters, and waiver forms ***signed by each player***, must be provided to the Sports Office by **December 23, 2016**. No changes may be made after these dates except in extreme emergencies. Emergency add forms must be filed and are available in the Sports Office per request. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of game(s) and/or a suspension for manager.
- D. Release forms must be executed before adding a player on a full roster. They must also be executed when a player is no longer eligible to play on a team.
- E. A player may not participate until his/her player waiver form is complete and on file with their manager at the start of the season and with the NCC Sports Office by the required date (see II.C. above).
- F. A manager may coach additional teams in separate leagues. Players may play on only one (1) team in each specific area of competition if applicable (i.e., Men, Women, Co-Recreation). Once a player is released from a team, he/she may not return to that team during the same season.
- G. Upon signing a roster or add form, each player accepts responsibility under the team manager for personal adherence to all league rules and policies, as well as, helping to oversee the behavior of any spectators.
- H. Complete teams of high school varsity, junior college, or college players may not participate in the winter volleyball leagues unless special permission has been granted by the NCC Sports Office.
- I. Managers must carry a completed copy of their roster to all games (especially during the first few weeks of season until turned into NCC Sports Office) and must present the roster to the NCC Coordinator or opposing coach if requested.
- J. Any violation of eligibility rules above will result in forfeiture of all applicable games and a possible suspension for manager and player.
- K. In order for a player to qualify for playoffs, players must actively participate on the court during four (4) nights Winter League play and two (2) nights Summer League play. Managers must maintain their own attendance records throughout the season. Coordinators will determine the final status on any ineligible players. **Emergency roster additions will be exempt.** This includes all leagues.
- L. Two (2) women are permitted to be on a roster in the Men's League and only one (1) may be participating on the court at anytime.

III. FINANCES/ADMISSION/PLACEMENT

- A. Team Admission Policy (Summary of Registration Procedure)
 - 1. All teams can begin registering in person or by mail beginning October 01 (Winter League) and April 15 (Summer League). **Full payment is due upon registration.**
 - 2. All registrations will be handled on a first-come first-served basis pending acceptable status of team behavior and payment record from previous season.
 - 3. Out of state teams (= out of state manager and/or 50% non-resident players) will be accepted only if space permits after registration deadline.
- B. Entry Fee:
 - 1. Each team entering a volleyball league will be required to submit an entry fee payable to New Castle County to be used for the purpose of paying league expenses as well as a reasonable share of the Sports & Athletics operating costs. **Note:** There is no accident/medical coverage for players included in the entry fee.
 - 2. Each team pays \$13 per match to referee prior to game start.
 - a. Forfeits – If your team forfeits a match, the forfeiting team is responsible for the entire referee fee (\$26) which must be paid prior to the next scheduled match. An additional \$5 administrative fee may be imposed if necessary.
 - b. Playoffs – Competing teams will also provide payment for referees during the playoffs (i.e. semi-finals and finals). Note: Possible best of five playoff match = \$32 referee fee (\$16 per team).
 - 4. Any team that drops out after start of season and **no** replacement team is found; or is ejected from a league, will forfeit the entire entry fee.
 - 5. Potential cost for reference services for entire season:

Regular season:	1 referee x \$26 each x 10 matches ÷ 2 teams = \$ 130.00
Playoffs:	1 referee x \$32 each x 3 matches ÷ 2 teams = <u>\$ 48.00</u>
	Total \$ 178.00
 - 6. **Guidelines for Team Entry fee Refunds:**
Refund Scale:
 - ~ 100% - if requested before scheduling has started – **5% of activity fee (max \$25) applies only to 100% refund**
 - ~ 75% - if requested after scheduling has started
 - ~ 50% - if requested after schedule is complete
 - ~ No refund – if requested after season starts
- C. Team Placement Policy
 - 1. Placement of teams in leagues (new and old) will be controlled by the Sports & Athletics Office in coordination with the various volunteer representatives for each league. New Castle County reserves the right to advance the most qualified teams into the next highest “Division/League” necessary to maintain the desired structure in the overall NCCDCS volleyball league program and in turn, also move a team to a lower league if necessary:
 - a. Any team winning a division playoff and/or regular season championship will be required to move up to the next higher division the following year.
 - b. Generally, any team may be **required** to move up or down a division if it is determined by the Sports Administrator and volleyball coordinators to be in the best interests of the league (especially if there are a large number of new teams coming into league).

IV. OFFICIAL GAME

- A. U.S.A. current volleyball rules shall govern the play in this league with special rule exceptions as may be adopted or amended in the following list of rules.
- B. Any team not having the full number of players when the first game is called shall be given 5 minutes to complete the lineup of four (4) players or forfeit to their opponents. Score of all forfeited games shall be 2-0. Only five (5) minutes will be allowed in the succeeding games in the same match. Second and third matches of the evening receive five (5) minutes for each game. Teams forfeiting in more than two matches during the course of the season will lose their franchise the following year.

- C. Each team must have a minimum of four (4) (maximum 6) players on the court at all times. (*Co-ed only – Each team must have a minimum of two players of each sex on the court at all times.*)
 - D. It is encouraged that any player present and dressed at match time should be entered at least once during the match. If six (6) players are in uniform, the team must start with six (6) players in a game.
 - E. The unlimited substitution rule will be used. Males may substitute for females or males, and vice versa, females may substitute for males or females.
 - F. When re-entering the game, the returning player must return to his/her original spot in the serving order.
 - G. All matches (25 points per game) shall be played under a time limit to allow adequate time for the last match of the evening. A five (5) minute warning will be given to both teams. At the end of the five (5) minutes, the team with the highest score wins the game. In the event of a tie, sudden death play is in effect, with the first team to score winning the game. During the five (5) minute warning segment, teams **may not** use a time-out or substitution except in the case of an injury. Officials should give a five (5) minute warning and allow teams to make a last substitution at the five (5) minute warning.
 - 1. NCC Policy – If time the third game has just started and time expires, time will be extended to allow both teams the opportunity to have one (1) service. If there is a tie after this point, the sudden death rule applies. NOTE: There is no time cut off for third or fifth game of match in playoffs.
 - H. TIME-OUT REQUESTS – Requests for time-outs may be made by the designated head coach and/or by the playing captain when the ball is dead.
 - 1. Each team is allowed two time-outs in each game. Consecutive time-outs may be requested by either team without the resumption of play between time-outs. The length of time-out is limited to one (1) minute.
 - 2. If a team captain or head coach inadvertently requests a third time out, it shall be refused and the team warned. If, in the judgment of the first referee, a team requests a third time out as a means of attempting to gain an advantage, the offending team will be penalized with loss of service, or if not serving, the opponents shall be awarded a point.
 - 3. A team attendant may approach the players on the court for the purpose of providing water, towels, medical assistance, etc., but must move back from the side of the court when not engaged in administering such duties. Players may leave the court for water, but must be back and ready in 30 seconds.
 - I. **Co-ed Only:**
 - 1. When the ball is played more than once by a team, one of the contacts must be made by a player of the opposite sex. This rule will be applied on the following basis. A two hit play by the same sex is **legal** if any part of the ball is still **below** the top of the net when hit. A three hit play by the same sex is legal if any part of the ball is below the net on the third hit.
 - 2. The serving order and positions on the court at service do not have to be male and female alternated or vice-versa for Co-Rec plays.
 - 3. The following rule is not in effect for Co-Rec play: “When only one male player is in the front row at service, one male back row player may be forward of the attack line for the purpose of blocking... etc.”
 - J. A match during the regular season will include three games. Rally scoring (point scored by team that wins volley) will be in effect for all games (25 points ea.). There will also be a 27-point cap per game permitted if needed.
 - K. If time permits, the final round of the playoffs will feature a “Best of 5” game series. The fifth and final game will be played to 15 points with “No Cap” attached.
 - L. Service(s): “Let Serves” are permitted. Serve may hit net and go over and play continues until a point is made. **Note:** During summer league play, one (1) re-toss will be allowed for a service tossing error.
 - M. The use of a “Liberero” (specialized defensive player) is permitted and must have a jersey distinct in color from rest of team. The manager is responsible for monitoring any additional rule requirements that apply to the “Liberero”.
- V. LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION**
- A. Site Coordinators will file the score of each league game with the Sports Department of the News Journal immediately after each game (324-2850, 324-2804, 324-2806 or by FAX 324-2298, or by E-mail scores@delawareonline.com).

- B. The Head Coordinator will compile league standings on a weekly basis to be published each Sunday throughout the season in the News Journal Papers.
- C. Any routine questions during the season should be first addressed to your league coordinator for proper assistance. **Be sure your team record is accurate in the weekly standings throughout the season.**

VI. LEAGUE SEASON

- A. The season shall consist of a maximum number of matches determined by the program supervisor. The Winter League season will run from November – March and the Summer League will run from June – August.
- B. ***League Champion***
 - 1. Standings will be maintained using a points system with wins equal to two points. In the event that all teams do not play an even number of games, win percentage will be used instead of the points system.
 - 2. The first place team will be that team with the highest number of points (or win percentage) at the end of the season.
 - 3. Match play will determine positions for playoffs in case of a tie.
 - a. Ties at the end of the regular season will be separated by: 1) Head to Head in regular season matches; 2) Total games won in Head-to-Head matches; 3) Greatest point differential in Head-to-Head matches; 4) Record versus common playoff opponents; and 5) Least amount of points allowed versus common playoff opponents. **Note:** When breaking a tie with multiple teams, follow the procedure until tie is broken and return to top and begin procedure again.
 - 4. A single elimination playoff series will be scheduled and the winning team shall be league champion. The champion will receive a silver revere bowl for their sponsor.
 - 5. Playoff structures will generally be seeded brackets based on final standings. Other formats may be used in order to promote even competition throughout the program.
- C. ***Cancellation Policies***
 - 1. If it is necessary to cancel matches due to extraordinary circumstances, the reschedule matches shall be played upon notification from the Sports Administrator. Failure to comply with this will constitute a forfeit. Team managers ***must confirm by phone all rescheduling notifications with the opposing team manager and NCC League Coordinator.***
 - 2. Teams may be required to make up postponed games on off nights if necessary.
 - 3. Games may be canceled due to inclement weather. If possible, a decision will be made at 3:00 pm and the cancellation notice will be placed on the Sports Office recorder (395-5891) for managers only. ***Please make a note of the number since information will not be given through the office.*** An additional updated message may be placed on the recorder after 3pm if necessary. If in doubt, be sure to report to the playing site.
 - 4. Any game that is not completed and is rained out (Summer League) will be replayed from the score of 0-0.

VII. EQUIPMENT AND TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. All players on a team must be equipped with the similar color shirts and numbers by **December 20**; short or long sleeves, before entering the game. Players not in uniform will result in loss of point or side out at start of each game throughout the match. ***(See Rule IV.D) Note: Shirt numbers are required. Each rostered player will list his/her shirt number on the roster.*** This number is ***not*** transferable at any time. ***(Exception: Shirt numbers are not required for summer league play).***
- B. Home team will provide an approved volleyball for all games.
- C. Winter League: All players must be wearing proper gym shoes/sneakers. Summer League: Shoes with hard spikes are prohibited. Turf shoes with small flexible cleats may be used if approved by the League Coordinator.
- D. Teams are advised to have an agreement with their sponsor re: ownership of team equipment and uniforms.
- E. It is the manager's responsibility to inform New Castle County of players with disabilities and/or extreme medical conditions.
- F. Blood Rule: A team member who is bleeding or who has an open wound is prohibited from participating further until the bleeding is stopped and the wound is covered.

1. He/she must be replaced in the game until the bleeding is stopped and the wound is covered.
 2. If there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform or if the bandage becomes blood soaked in referee's judgment, the bandage or the uniform must be changed before the individual may participate. Teams will not incur a uniform penalty if the player is out of uniform due to the enforcement of the Blood Rule.
- G. All teams must have their own first aid supplies.
H. It is forbidden to wear hats or jewelry during competition.

VIII. REFEREES, OFFICIAL TIMERS AND SCORERS

- A. Referees will be assigned by an Assignor appointed by the Sports & Athletics Office.
B. Each team should make an effort to provide one linesman and one scorer for each game.
C. Comments regarding specific referees may be made-faxed (395-5892) by team managers in writing to: New Castle County.
D. All score sheets must be validated with an official's signature at the conclusion of the game and be signed by both managers.
E. The coordinator will then submit all official score sheets to the Sports Administrator.
F. Line-up cards are supplied by NCC and are to be given to the referee before each match until the deadline date is reached for team uniforms. Complete last names must be used on the line-up card. Use the back of the form if extra space is needed.

IX. PROTESTS

- A. Protest must be filed in writing to the Sports Administrator within **48 hours**. No protest can be made on a referee's decision except in the case of misinterpretation of rules and must be registered with the official **at the time of questionable play**. Be sure to note all pertinent game information, such as score, time-outs, time remaining, order of service, etc.
B. A fee of \$20.00 must accompany the protest. This fee will be returned if the protest is upheld. A Protest Committee appointed by the Sports Administrator will review the protest and its decision will be final.
C. If a protest is upheld, the game will be replayed from the point where the officiating error occurred in the game (only if the game has any bearing towards the playoffs).
D. A formal protest **must also be made at the gym/outdoor court** regarding the use of any ineligible players, in order for the Sports Office to apply appropriate enforcement. Have the questionable player sign the score sheet and enter significant information such as his/her birthdates and/or Social Security #, etc.

X. CONDUCT OF PLAYERS, COACHES AND MANAGERS

NOTICE: By signing their team roster and player waiver forms, managers and players agree to abide by all policies and procedures for the NCC Adult Volleyball Program. Individuals who are reported for violations of the policies described below will be subject to the appropriate disciplinary action based upon the review of reports that are filed with the Sports Office. No hearings will be held. Suspension memos will be mailed to all teams involved and published on the Sports and Athletics website (<http://www.nccdesports.com>). Violations will be recorded in a database maintained by the Sports and Athletics Office; repeat offenders will receive more severe penalties.

- A. No player, coach, or manager may participate in a league game while under the influence of intoxicants. Banishment from the facility shall be the punishment for a first time offense. If the same offense is committed again, the individual will be dropped from league participation. This rule is to be strictly enforced upon notification from the coordinator.
B. Any reports on a player guilty of misconduct shall be reviewed and decided upon by the officials of the Community Services Department. Severe infractions may result in suspension from all Sports and Athletics Section activities for a prescribed period of time.
C. Participants (through their captain/team manager) must know the Official Volleyball Rules and abide by them, including all statements and procedures governing team behavior, misconduct, and possible sanctions imposed by the referee.

- D. **Parents must provide supervision for children at the playing facility.** Young children should not be brought and left alone. Continued abuse of this rule will result in all children banished from the playing site, stoppage of game, and possible forfeiture of match.
- E. The manager/coach is responsible for the conduct of his/her assistants and players. He/she also has an obligation to help maintain orderly and sportsmanlike conduct among his/her team’s spectators, or the team will be penalized. The coordinator will assist the referee in enforcing this.
- F. **The referee and coordinator have the authority to stop play and declare the game or match over for conduct detrimental to the program or New Castle County Department of Community Services** (on the sidelines or on the court).
- G. Food, beverages, and smoking are prohibited at all indoor facilities. **Managers will police their respective team area after the game.** Continued abuse of facility will result in fines to the teams leaving trash at the site and/or suspension of the team manager.
- H. The coordinator may, at his/her discretion, end the game, eject a player (or players) or team, or take any other action deemed necessary for control of the program and facility.
- I. An individual receiving a second unsportsmanlike penalty in a match or a second expulsion over the course of the season will result in a review by the Sports Administrator. This player is ineligible for the rest of the night plus a minimum of one additional match without appeal. Further disciplinary action in terms of a period of ineligibility may be applied. Any player who is ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct must leave the gym facility immediately. The manager is responsible for proper enforcement.
- J. All players, coaches, managers, and spectators must park in the designated lot and not on grass areas or any fire lanes.
- K. All special rules established by the facility owner must be obeyed as part of these rules and regulations.
- L. Managers/team captains are the only players permitted to speak to the officials.
- M. Players with a pattern of poor behavior in the past will be subject to more stringent penalties if necessary.
- N. Any player reported for unsportsmanlike conduct at the end of the season or during the playoffs could be subject to a carry-over suspension for the following year.
- O. Zero Tolerance – The New Castle County Sports and Athletics Office is unwilling to accept any profane language or disrespectful behavior by any participant or spectator towards umpires, staff members, or playing opponents. Violators will be subject to all disciplinary penalties listed in this document.
- P. **Player – Player Altercations / Third Party Interference** – All players leaving their playing positions or bench area to enter into an altercation in progress will be ejected from the game and receive a minimum one (1) game additional suspension. If judged to be participating in the altercation, the penalty for fighting will also apply. If the majority of the players of either team (as judged by the officials and coordinator) are participating in the altercation, the game will be forfeited and the following game for each offending team will be forfeited. In addition, a \$25.00 fine will be imposed on the offending team (to be paid in cash, at the Sports Office, before their next scheduled game). This fine will be forwarded to the offending team’s next opponent as compensation for the lost game.
- Q. Spectators may be required to sit on floors to watch games due to possible problems involving the use of bleachers.

XI. TABLE OF VIOLATIONS AND RECOMMENDED PENALTIES

<u>VIOLATION</u>	<u>FIRST OFFENSE</u>	<u>SECOND OFFENSE</u>
1. Use of alcohol or drugs prior to match	Ejection from match and probation for remainder of season	Ejection from league
2. Use of alcohol or drugs following match in county parkland	Warning or suspension from next scheduled match	Ejection from league
3. Unsportsmanlike conduct/abusive act or sarcastic remarks towards an official, NCC Coordinator, opposing player, etc.	Ejection from match plus minimum one match suspension	Minimum two match suspension plus probation
4. Fighting (Aggressor)	Minimum three match suspension	Ejection from league

<u>VIOLATION</u>	<u>FIRST OFFENSE</u>	<u>SECOND OFFENSE</u>
5. Fighting (Non-aggressor)	Minimum one match suspension	Minimum two match suspension or ejection from league
6. Third man entering dispute/altercation	Ejection from game plus minimum 1-3 game suspension (see IX.O above)	Ejection from league
7. Failure to leave area of court after ejection, continuous harassment	Minimum three match suspension	Possible four match suspension plus probation
8. Returning to encounter with an official after ejection/violation behavior; charging an official, etc.	Minimum four match suspension	Possible ejection from league
9. Non-Flagrant bumping of an official (intentional or unintentional)	Ejection from game plus minimum four game suspension	Ejection from league
10. Physical altercation with an official or coordinator/extreme violent behavior	Minimum/one year suspension from all NCC sponsored sports activities	Long term suspension/possibly barred forever from all NCC sponsored sports activities
11. Malicious destruction to facility and/or property of NCC	Suspension from league until retribution is made to proper agency	Ejection from league
12. Misconduct preceding or following a game	Individual subject to all NCCDCS disciplinary procedures	Possible ejection from league
13. Zero Tolerance for minor slips of profanity not directed toward officials/incidents of self-anger	Warning to team and/or violator issued a “Cool Down” for remainder of game period	Next violator ejected immediately from game and/or match
14. Inadvertent use of ineligible player/unintentional roster omission; etc.	Minimum one (1) game suspension for manager and forfeiture given to offending team; or one win deducted and one loss added to overall record of team in violation	Manager loses coaching privileges and/or team ejected from league
15. Intentional use of ineligible player/using assumed name; etc.	Same penalties as above, plus team is prohibited from participating in playoffs	Team ejected from league for remainder of season and loss of managerial privileges for following season
16. Player playing on more than 1 team in same league	Player ejected from league for remainder of season	N/A
17. Failure to submit roster by due date	Indefinite suspension for manager and/or forfeiture of game(s)	N/A

<u>VIOLATION</u>	<u>FIRST OFFENSE</u>	<u>SECOND OFFENSE</u>
18. Verbal threats towards an official or staff member	Minimum six (6) months suspension from all NCC sponsored sports activities	Long term suspension from all NCC sponsored sports activities
19. Parking in non-designated areas	Warning	Police will be called and potential fine to team

XII. OFFICIATING COMPLAINTS / COMMENDATIONS

Any complaints / commendations regarding officiating must be submitted in writing to the Sports & Athletics Section in order for effective action to be taken. Your letter will be carefully reviewed, and a copy will be sent to the appropriate officials' organization. Complaints: depending upon the severity of the situation, a recommendation may or may not be made by our office. In either case, the letter will be documented and your input will be beneficial in helping to access future complaints on a particular official. Please recognize that complaints from a winning team are more often held in higher regard than those from a losing team.

XIII. ASSUMPTION OF RISK

The Recreation Division of the Department of Community Services of New Castle County and its officers assume no responsibility for injuries to the members of any team holding franchise in this league, no matter under what circumstances incurred and adoptions of these rules by the team manager shall be the equivalent of a full and lawful release and discharge of any claims that members have or which may arise in the future against any of the above named for injury to their persons or property.

XIV. SAVINGS CLAUSE

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, or portion of these rules and regulations for any reason shall be adjudged invalid by a court having jurisdiction, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of these by-laws not directly involved in the controversy in which judgment is rendered.