



Adult Volleyball League Rules

The Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks through the League Director reserves the right to amend the rules and schedules as conditions warrant.

I. ROSTERS

1. Each team shall be limited to 15 players.
2. The team manager shall submit a roster of all of the players on his/her team prior to the start of the 1st match. Teams can submit finalized rosters if they have additions up to the 3rd match. No players can be added after the 3rd match without League Director approval.
3. Any additions or deletions must be on the official league drop/add form and must be submitted to the League office before the player is eligible to play.
4. Rosters are to be submitted on the official roster form. Each player's full name, signature, address and home and work phone numbers must appear on this form.

II. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. Players must be 18 years of age or older to be eligible to play.
2. A player may only be on one Co-Rec and/or Men's/Women's team roster within a division.
3. Any team using an ineligible player shall automatically forfeit each game in which the player participated. If a team uses a suspended player or a player under an assumed name, that team shall automatically be dropped from the League. Each game played with that player, and all scheduled games not played shall be forfeited to the opponents.
4. Protests as to the use of an ineligible player made at any time during the operation of the League and no protest fee is required. The protest must be submitted in writing to the Department within 48 hours of the match.

III. PLAYING RULES

1. Unless modified by this set of rules, all games of the Adult Volleyball League shall be played in accordance with the current USAV Rules.
2. The number of players to start and continue a game shall be as follows: A game may start and/or be played with a minimum of five (5) players; however, service is lost when the sixth (6th) player would have served. If a sixth (6th) player arrives after the start of a game, he/she shall be substituted into the position on the court that was left vacant in the starting line-up. If a team only has 4 players to start a game, they can borrow 1 player from another team pending approval of the other Team Manager.

3. Scheduled matches will start on time. Grace periods shall be handled in the following manner:
 - 5 min. late/ Forfeit game #1
 - 10 min. late/ Forfeit game #2
 - 15 min. late/ Forfeit game #3
 The official will make all final decisions regarding games forfeited.
4. Each team will play three (3) twenty-five-point rally games each night of play, however should the first two games last 40 or more minutes, the third game will be a 15-point rally game (Please see rule #5). Each individual game will be compiled for the standings.
5. Rally Point Scoring to 25 points will be used. In this method; if a team fails to serve properly, return the ball, or commits any other fault, the opponent wins the rally and scores a point. The consequences of winning the rally are: If the serving team wins the rally, it scores a point and continues to serve. If the receiving team wins the rally, it scores a point and gains the right to serve. **Rally Point Scoring to 15 points will begin only if the first two games last 40 minutes or more.**
6. A team must win by two points to end the game. Hence, a game cannot end with a 25-24 score but can end with a 26-24 score.
7. Substitutions are unlimited and any number of players may substitute into one position; however, those players then become substitutes for only that position.
8. A serve may hit the net as long as the ball goes over the net and is within the lines of the opponent's court. This will be considered playable. However, if the ball hits the net but does not go over, it will not be playable, and a point will be awarded to the opponent.

IV. CO-REC PLAYING RULE EXCEPTIONS

1. A team shall consist of three (3) men and three (3) women (Exception: ONE woman can substitute for one man's position, if ONE male is not present. The opposite does not apply).
2. A team may play with five (5) players; however, the following rules will apply:
 - a. Teams playing with 5 players will be required to have a combination of: 3 male and 2 female players or 2 male and 3 female players.
 - b. The missing sixth player's position will rotate around the court as if the missing player were present. When the missing player's position rotates to the front row, only two players may occupy front row positions at the time of the serve.
 - c. When the missing sixth player's position rotates to the serving position, the missing player will lose service to the other team.
3. Substitutions shall be unlimited; however, man for man, woman for woman substitutions only. A player can re-enter the game any number of times. Any number of players may substitute into one position, but those players then become substitutes for only that position in the line-up.
4. The serving order and positions on the floor must be an alternation of males and females.
5. When the ball is played more than once by a team, one of these contacts must be made by the female player.
6. When only one male player is in the front row, one male player may come up from the back row for the purpose of blocking only. This back-row blocker may not attack the ball above the level of the net while in front of the attack line.

V. FORFEITS

1. A forfeit is considered a game. Forfeited games will not be rescheduled. A 25-0 win will be given to the team that did not forfeit. Teams that forfeit are responsible for all officials' fees for the forfeited game. The fee is **\$40**. Forfeiting teams will not receive a refund. More than two forfeits in a given season may result in being ineligible for playoffs and/or being dropped from the league without the possibility of a refund. Forfeiting teams must call 410-313-7275 to pay the **\$40** forfeit fee by Friday at noon before their next scheduled game. If you fail to do so you will be removed from the league without refund and will not be eligible for the playoffs.
2. Forfeit With Notice - If a team knows that it will not have enough players for a future match, the team shall contact the Commissioner at least 36 hours prior to said match to be forfeited. In doing so, the match will still result in a 1-0 forfeit loss, but your team will not be charged the \$40 forfeit fee as the League will have time to notify the opposing team and referees.
3. Referee Payment - Once the match has started, the referee fees are non-refundable regardless of how many minutes have been played.

VI. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

1. A player who is ejected from a game by an official shall be suspended for the remainder of the match and the next following match. Any further ejections during the current season shall be dealt with more severely by the League Director.
2. Anyone who strikes, shoves, pushes, bumps or otherwise physically threatens an official or another player shall be suspended from all Recreation and Parks Department activities for at least one (1) year from the date of the incident.
3. The Howard County Employee Manual requires the Department to take action against anyone who harasses any Department of Recreation and Parks staff.
4. Substance abuse by player personnel during the game shall be subject to ejection by game officials and/or disciplinary action to be taken by the League Director.
5. Any player, coach or manager suspended from play from another program or jurisdiction shall also be suspended from participation in any program operated by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks.

VII. AWARDS

Playoff Champions - Championship t-shirts

VIII. CANCELLATION OF GAMES

1. To confirm that matches are being held as scheduled, call 410-313-4452. Please listen for the correct facility.