

UTAH OUTDOOR VOLLEYBALL **ASSOCIATION RULES**

1. PLAYING AREA

1.1 DIMENSIONS

- a. The playing area for the LONG COURT is 59' x 29'6" (18m x 9m) and a surrounding free zone which is a minimum 9'10" (3m) wide.
- b. The playing area for the SHORT COURT is 52'6" x 26'3" (16 meters x 8 meters).

1.2 PLAYING SURFACE

The surface of the playing area must be as flat and uniform as possible, free of rocks, sprinkler heads and any other objects which may cause injury. Sand courts consist of fine-grained sand and should be at least 12" deep.

1.3 LINES ON THE COURT

Boundary lines consist of two sidelines and two end lines which mark the playing court. They are made of 1/4-3/8" rope or 1-2" wide flat bands or tape. The center line divides the playing court into two square team courts, but is not marked. All lines are considered to extend indefinitely. It is the players' responsibility to assure that all lines are in their proper location prior to the start of each play. Lines moved during play do not cause the rally to stop. If it cannot be determined whether a ball lands in bounds or out of bounds it is a replay. If the line "bounces" it is considered in.

1.4 SERVICE ZONE

The service zone is behind the end line and between the extension of the sidelines and extends to the end of the free zone.

2. NET AND POSTS

2.1 HEIGHT OF THE NET

The height of the net is 7'11 5/8" (2.43m) for men and 7'4 1/8" (2.24m) for Women and youth 14 and under, measured at the center.

A net failure occurs when there is a sudden loss of net height or tension. If the net failure is the result of a fault or does not affect the outcome of the rally, the rally counts. Otherwise, it is replayed.

3. BALL

3.1 BALL

The ball must be spherical, made of a flexible leather or water-resistant leather-like cover and a rubber or rubber-like bladder. Its circumference must be 25 1/2 - 26 1/2" and its weight 9-10 oz. It may be of any color or multicolored.

4. TEAMS

4.1 COMPOSITION

Two players on the court per team, with no more than two players on the roster.

All competitions must involve teams with the required number of players. Teams with less than the required number of players must forfeit.

5. EQUIPMENT

5.1 APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

A player's clothing must be presentable and appropriate for the competition. Players on the same team are permitted to wear clothing of different colors and designs. Players may wear hats, visors or sunglasses at their own risk. Players may play barefoot, in socks or in "booties." Shoes may be worn but they cannot have any type of non-flexible cleats or spikes

5.2 FORBIDDEN OBJECTS

It is forbidden to wear any objects that may cause an injury to a player, such

as jewelry, pins, bracelets, casts, etc. Players may wear glasses or flat-band rings at their own risk.

6. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 PLAYERS

All participants must know the official UOVA Volleyball Outdoor Rules and abide by them.

Participants must behave respectfully and courteously in the spirit of fair play towards the refereeing corps, teammates, opponents and spectators. They must refrain from actions aimed at delaying the game or taking unfair advantage. Participants must accept referees' decisions with sportsmanlike conduct. In case of doubt, clarifications may be respectfully requested. A player may question the referee's interpretation of a rule, but not the referee's judgment.

6.2 PLAYERS BEHAVIOR

- . Players must not persistently address officials in regard to their decisions.
- . Players must not make derogatory remarks about or to an official, opponents or spectators.
- . Player must refrain from the use of profanity.
- . Players must not commit acts with the intention of influencing the referee's decisions.
- . Players must refrain from intentionally trying to distract an opponent who is playing or about to play the ball (i.e. shouting, clapping, etc.).
- . Players should not take any action tending to influence the referee's judgment concerning ball handling.
- . Players may not commit any act, which, in the opinion of the referee, delays the game unnecessarily.
- . Players must refrain from kicking or hitting the ball out of the area of play.
- . Players must not intentionally damage tournament equipment.
- . Physical assault or intimidation of officials, opponents or spectators by players is prohibited.
(see "Misconduct", Article 22)

7. SCORING SYSTEM

7.1 TO WIN A RALLY

- . Whenever a team fails to serve or return the ball, or commits any other fault, the opposing team wins the rally.
- . If the serving team wins a rally, it scores a point and continues to serve.
- . With rally scoring, points are scored by offense or defense every time a ball is served.

7.2 DEFAULT AND INCOMPLETE TEAM

A team declared incomplete for the game or match loses the game or match. The opposing team is given the points, or points and the games needed to win the game(s) or match.

7.3 FORFEIT - Pool Play Only

If any team forfeits a match, all games that they have played, or will play, are scored "0".

8. PREPARATION OF THE MATCH

8.1 COIN TOSS

Before the first game and before each deciding game, the referee conducts a coin toss in the presence of the team captains. The winner of the coin toss chooses either:

- . to select to serve or receive service of the first ball or
- . the side of the court on which to start the game.

The loser takes the remaining alternative and, for the second game, gets to select from the above choices.

8.2 Any other alternate means may be used as long as agreed to by both teams.

9. TEAM LINE-UP

9.1 SUBSTITUTIONS

No substitutions or replacements of players are allowed.

10. STATES OF PLAY

10.1 BALL “IN PLAY”

The ball is in play from the service contact until the ball is out of play.

10.2 BALL “OUT OF PLAY”

The ball is out of play from the moment the ball lands or a fault is committed.

The rally ends when a referee halts play or the ball is out of play.

10.3 BALL “IN” (OR “IN BOUNDS”)

A ball is in when its first contact with the ground is on the playing court or a boundary line.

10.4 BALL “OUT” (OR “OUT OF BOUNDS”)

The ball is out when:

- Its first contact with the ground is completely outside the playing court, or it does not touch the boundary line.
- It completely crosses the net outside the posts for the long court; or antennas for the short courts, or under the net after the attacking team’s third contact.
- It touches an object out of play.
- It passes over the imaginary extension of the posts (Long Court) or antenna (Short Court).
- If the boundary line is accidentally moved, the referee will decide whether the ball is in or out by judging where the line should have been.

11. PLAYING FAULTS

11.1 DEFINITION

- Any playing action contrary to the rules is a fault.
- If two or more faults are committed successively, only the first one is counted, except when the first fault is a the ball contacting the ground and the second fault occurs during the continuation of the play. If two or more faults are committed by two opponents simultaneously, the rally is replayed.

12. PLAYING THE BALL

12.1 TEAM CONTACTS

Each team is entitled to a maximum of three contacts to return the ball to the opponents. A player may not contact the ball two times consecutively except during or after blocking or when digging a hard driven ball. In open blocking does constitute a team contact and any player may make the first contact of the ball after the block.

12.2 SIMULTANEOUS CONTACTS

- If two opponents simultaneously and instantaneously contact the ball over the net, the ball remains in play and the team receiving the ball is entitled to another three hits. If such a ball lands out of bounds, it is the fault of the team on the opposite side of the net from where the ball lands.
- A joust occurs when players of opposing teams cause the ball to come to rest above the net through simultaneous contact. A joust is not a fault and play continues as if the contact was instantaneous.

12.3 ASSISTED HIT

- A player is not permitted to take support from a teammate or any object in order to reach the ball. However, a player who is about to commit a fault may be stopped or held back by a teammate.

12.4 CHARACTERISTICS OF CONTACT

- A player may touch the ball with any part of the body.
- A player may have successive contacts with a hard driven ball.
- The ball must be contacted cleanly and not held (including lifted, pushed, caught, carried or thrown). The ball cannot roll or come to rest on any part of a player's body.
- An exception is allowed during the defensive play of a hard-driven ball, which is an attack-hit or blocked ball traveling at a high rate of speed, (as judged by the referee). In that case, the ball may be momentarily lifted or pushed, providing that the attempt is one continuous motion.
- A contact of the ball with two hands, using the fingers to direct the ball, is a set. A player may set the ball in any direction towards his/her team's

- court, provided that the ball is contacted simultaneously by both hands and does not visibly come to rest.
- . Rotation of the ball after the set may indicate a held ball or multiple contacts during the set, but in itself is not a fault.
 - . A legal set directed towards a teammate that unintentionally crosses the net due to the wind or any other cause is a fault.
 - . If the ball is intentionally set into the opponent's court, the player must contact the ball above his/her shoulders and must direct the ball perpendicular to the direction his/her shoulders are facing.
 - . When contacting the ball with one hand, it must be cleanly hit with the heel or palm of the hand (a "roll shot"), with straight, locked fingertips (a "cobra"), knurled fingers (a "camel toe") or the back of the hand from the wrist to the knuckles. One-handed placement or redirection of the ball with the fingers (a "dink" or "open hand tip") is a fault.

13. BALL AT THE NET

13.1 BALL CROSSING THE NET

- . A ball directed to the opponent's court must go over the net and fully within the poles (Long Court) or antennas (Short Court)

13.2 BALL TOUCHING THE NET

- . LONG COURT - The ball may touch the net while crossing the net, except during the service.
- . LONG COURT - A serve that touches the net is a fault.
- . SHORT COURT - The ball may touch the net while crossing the net during the serve.

13.3 BALL IN THE NET

- . A ball driven into the net may be recovered within the limits of the three-team contacts.
- . SHORT COURT - A ball may be played off the net between the antennas.
- . SHORT COURT - A ball may NOT be played off the net if it touches, or is outside the antennas.

13.4 BALL TOUCHING THE POSTS OR ANTENNAS

- . LONG COURT - A ball touching the posts or hardware inside the posts is

- a fault.
- . SHORT COURT - A ball touching the antenna is a fault.

14. PLAYER AT THE NET

14.1 REACHING BEYOND THE NET

- . While blocking, a player may touch the ball beyond the net, provided they do not interfere with the opponent's play, before or during the attack-hit.
- . A player is permitted to pass his/her hand(s) beyond the net after an attack-hit, provided that the contact was made within his/her team's playing space.

14.2 PENETRATION INTO OPPONENT'S PLAYING AREA

- . Players may partially or completely cross the center line below the net or outside the poles, either before, during or after a legal play of the ball, provided that this does not interfere with the opponent's play. Incidental contact with an opponent is ignored, unless such contact interferes with the opponent's opportunity to play the ball. While opposing players are not required to avoid the ball or the player, they cannot intentionally interfere with any legal attempt to play the ball on their court.
- . If a player crosses the centerline and interferes with an opponent during the continuation of a play, it is a fault.

14.3 CONTACT WITH THE NET OR POSTS

It is a fault for a player or a player's clothing to touch any part of the net. Exceptions are:

- . Incidental contact of the net by a player's hair.
- . If a player's hat, visor or glasses fall off during play then contacts the net
- . When a ball is driven into the net and causes the net to touch a player, no fault is committed. Once a player has contacted the ball, the player may touch the posts, ropes or any other object outside the total length of the net provided that it does not interfere with play.
- . If the ball is attacked and the ball hits the ground before the player hits the net it is still considered a net violation.

15. SERVICE

15.1 DEFINITION

The service (or serve) is the act of putting the ball into play by the serving player in the service zone.

15.2 SERVICE ORDER

- If the serving team wins the rally or a replay is directed, the player who served the previous rally serves again. If the serving team loses the rally, the next server on the receiving team serves the ball.
- If a player is discovered serving out of order, after the ball is dead, that player continues to serve with no loss of points. The opposing team remains in their service order, but the offending team will reverse their original order of service to ensure that no player will serve three consecutive terms of service. Excessive misuse of this privilege is unsportsmanlike conduct.

15.3 AUTHORIZATION OF SERVICE

It is the responsibility of the server to assure that both teams are ready for service. A player on the receiving team may stop play when not ready for a service as long as no attempt to play the ball is made. In this case, the rally is canceled and replayed. Misuse of this privilege is unsportsmanlike conduct.

15.4 EXECUTION OF SERVICE

- The server may move freely behind the end line. At the moment of the service or take-off for service, the server must not touch the ground outside the service zone. The player's foot may not go under a boundary line. If the end line is moved by the server it is a fault. After the service contact, the player may land on the court or outside the service zone.
- The server contacts the ball with one hand or any part of the arm after clearly tossing or releasing the ball and before the ball touches the playing surface.

15.5 SERVICE ATTEMPT

The server may only have one attempt to serve the ball.

15.6 SCREENING

The server's teammates must not prevent the opponents, through screening,

from seeing the server or the path of the ball. On an opponent's request, a player must move sideways, bend over or bend down.

15.7 NET SERVE

A ball may touch the net when served in short court. It is a fault if the ball touches the net in long court.

16. ATTACK -HIT

16.1 DEFINITION

All actions to direct the ball towards the opponent's playing area, except in the act of serving and blocking, are considered to be attack-hits. An attack-hit is completed the moment the ball completely crosses the vertical plane of the net

or is touched by a blocker. A player may contact an attack-hit at any height, provided that contact with the ball is made within the player's own playing space.

16.2 ATTACK-HIT FAULTS

It is a fault when a player completes an attack-hit on the opponent's service.

17. BLOCK

17.1 DEFINITION

Blocking is the action of player(s) close to the net to deflect the attacked ball coming from the opponent by reaching above the height of the net.

17.2 HITS BY THE BLOCKER

The first hit after the block may be executed by any player, including the player who touched the ball at the block.

17.3 BLOCK WITHIN THE OPPONENT'S SPACE

In blocking, the player may place his/her hands and arms beyond the net

provided that action does not interfere with the opponent's play. The player is not permitted to touch the ball beyond the net until the opponent has made an attack-hit.

17.4 BLOCKING CONTACT

In open a blocking contact is counted as a team hit. The blocking team will have two hits after a blocking contact. Consecutive, quick and continuous contacts may occur by one or more blockers, provided that these contacts are made during one blocking action.

- . There are no restrictions on which players may participate in a block.
- . In all other divisions a block does not count as a contact and will have three remaining contacts.

18. TIME-OUTS

18.1 DEFINITION

- . A time-out is a regular game interruption. It last for 1 minute. Each team is entitled to a maximum of two time-outs per game. Successive time-outs may be requested without resumption of the game.
- . Injury time-out is 5 minutes.

19. DELAYS TO THE GAME

19.1 DEFINITION

A delay is an improper action of a team that defers resumption of the game and includes:

- . Prolonging timeouts, after having been instructed to resume the game.
- . Repeating an improper request in the same game.

19.2 SANCTIONS FOR DELAYS

The first delay by a team in a game is sanctioned with a delay warning. The second and any subsequent delay of any type by the same team in the same game constitutes a fault and is sanctioned with a delay penalty, which is the loss of a rally/point.

20. EXCEPTIONAL GAME INTERRUPTIONS

20.1 INJURY

If an injury occurs as the result of a fault or does not affect the outcome of the rally, the rally counts. Otherwise, the rally is immediately canceled and replayed. An injured player is given a five-minute injury time-out.

20.2 EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE

If external interference does not affect the outcome of the play, the rally counts. Otherwise, the rally is immediately canceled and replayed. A shouted warning (such as “Ball on!”) is sufficient to affect the outcome of play, provided that a player had a chance to make a legal play of the ball. Misuse of this privilege is unsportsmanlike conduct. A ball that is rolling near the court is not necessarily interference with play. The referee will make a final determination if a “ball on” call is disputed.

21. COURT SWITCHES

21.1 COURT SWITCHES

Court switches are team exchanges of playing courts which occur at specified times during a game.

- . Rally scoring will be used in all divisions. Tournament Director has the discretion to set length of games; however UOVA suggest that pools of 4 teams or less play two rally games to 25 points per game. Pools of 5 teams may play two rally-scoring games to 21 points and pools of 6 or more play one rally game to 30 points. Teams will switch sides at multiplies of 10 points.

22. MISCONDUCT

22.1 CATEGORIES

Incorrect conduct by a team member towards officials, opponents, teammates or spectators is classified in four categories according to the degree of the

offense:

- . Unsportsmanlike conduct: arguing, intimidating, taking unfair or inappropriate advantage of player privileges, etc.
- . Rude conduct: acting contrary to good manners or moral principles, interfering with an opponent's ability to play, expressing contempt.
- . Offensive conduct: defamatory or insulting words or gestures.
- . Aggression: physical attack or intended aggression.

22.2 SANCTIONS

Depending on the degree of the incorrect conduct, according to the judgement of the referee, the sanctions to be applied are:

- . Misconduct warning: For unsportsmanlike conduct, no penalty is given but the team member concerned is warned against repetition in the same game.
- . Misconduct penalty: For rude conduct, the team is penalized with the loss of one rally.
- . Expulsion: Repeated rude conduct is sanctioned by expulsion and the player must leave the playing area for the remainder of the game.
- . Disqualification: for offensive conduct and aggression, the player is sanctioned by disqualification and must leave the playing area for the remainder of the match. Disqualified players may be subject to further sanctions by the Tournament Director.
- . Expulsion and/or disqualification will be the responsibility of the tournament director.

22.3 SANCTION SCALE

Repetition of misconduct by the same person in the same game is sanctioned progressively. Disqualification due to offensive conduct or aggression does not require a previous sanction.

22.4 MISCONDUCT BEFORE AND BETWEEN GAMES

Any misconduct occurring before or between games is sanctioned and the sanction(s) apply in the following game.

23. REFEREEING

23.1 PROCEDURES

- . Referees shall position themselves at the base of one of the poles or on the

referee stand.

- . The referee shall make all calls governing play.
- . The players have the responsibility to make “honor” calls on themselves in regards to a net touch or touch while blocking the ball. The referee should also make these calls.

24. REFEREE

24.1 AUTHORITY

The referee has the authority to make all calls during the match. Players may not protest referee’s judgment calls. Players may request a rules interpretation by the tournament director or UOVA rep.

25. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

25.1 AUTHORITY

- . The tournament director has the authority to alter rules and make decisions not covered in the rules.
- . If the tournament director does alter the rules, the tournament director must advise the participants of those changes prior to the start of the event if possible.
- . The tournament director has absolute authority over players, game officials and spectators, on and off the court at a tournament, where the maintenance of order is concerned, and may impose disciplinary measures as needed.
- . The tournament director has the authority to make any necessary decisions regarding entries and seeding.
- . The tournament director may change the format of the tournament if, in his opinion, conditions warrant it (i.e. loser’s games played to 11 points because of limited daylight).
- . The tournament director has the authority to settle any and all disputes.
- . The tournament director is the sole authority who determines if weather conditions warrant a suspension or cancellation of play.
- . The tournament director is the final authority in determining if courts are safe and playable.
- . The tournament director shall assign the players to referee matches. Normally seeded players with a bye or next up on court will be assigned to

start refereeing. After the first round, losers have the responsibilities to referee the following match.

- Players not completing their refereeing assignments will be reported to all other tournament directors. Players not completing their refereeing assignments may lose their right to play in all UOVA events.

26. VARIATIONS ON DOUBLES RULES FOR TRIPLES, FOUR AND SIX PERSON TEAMS:

26.1 PLAYING AREA COURT LINES

(6,R) Attack lines are marked 9'10" (3m) from the centerline.

26.2 TEAM COMPOSITION

- Triples: 3 players on the court per team, no more than 3 on the roster.
- Four-person: 4 players on the court per team, no more than 6 on the roster.
- Six-person: 6 players on the court per team, no more than 12 on the roster.
- All competitions must involve teams with the required numbers of players. Teams with fewer than the required number of players must forfeit.
- Mixed teams are composed of male and female players competing on a men's height net and Reverse Mixed teams compete on a women's height net. Mixed teams must contain equal numbers of males and females on each team, except in triples (where there must be a least one of each) or if otherwise specified. In reverse coed tournaments the male player may only attack from behind the 10" line. If they are in front of the 10" line and the ball is above the height of the net it may not be attacked. An attack is any ball that is directed to the opponents court.

26.3 TEAM SUBSTITUTIONS

- Unlimited substitutions are allowed as long as one player does not occupy more than one position in the service order during a single game.
- If a player becomes injured and no legal substitute is available for that position in the service order, a player on the roster not playing at the time of the injury may enter the game as an *exceptional substitution* for the injured player. This substitute may not be replaced for the remainder of the game unless he/she also becomes injured. If no team members are available to make a legal or exceptional substitution, an injury time-out may be granted in accordance with rule 21:1.2.

26.4 PLAYER'S POSITIONS

For Triples of Four-person competition only:

- . Players are free to position themselves anywhere within their court. There are no positional faults.

26.5 BLOCKING

- . (R) Male players may not participate in a block.
- . When a ball is blocked back into an attacking player, the attacker is not considered to be a blocker. Therefore, that contact counts as the first of the team's three hits.
- . (6) Back row players may not participate in a block.

26.6 ATTACK HIT DEFINED

(6 back row or R male) If a player contacts the ball completely above the height of the net, and the player's foot is touching or has last touched the ground on or in front of the attack line, the attack-hit must have an upward trajectory

27 BOYS 14 AND UNDER

Boy's under the age of 15 may play in the women's division or in a coed division as the female.

Parent-Child Division Rule Clarifications:

This division is open to any gender parent and child (under the age of 14). This division will be played on women's height nets.

The parent-child division is for the purpose of the child to have a positive experience and to get as many touches on the ball as possible. It is not for the purpose of the parent to dominate the match. As our children get bigger, and they express an interest in the sport of volleyball, we want to give them a division that they can participate in and not feel intimidated. That is why the parent-child division was developed.

In order to put the adults on a level playing field and for the safety of the children, adults may not contact the ball above the height of the net when the ball is attacked. This includes legal tipping, roll shots, and setting the ball over when the ball is above the height of the net.

The adults also may not block. There are no restrictions on serving. However, it is recommended that if the adult serves to the child they do so at the child's skill level.



Tournament Format and Rule Clarifications

All divisions will play by current UOVA Volleyball Rules with the following clarifications. Any exceptions or alternate rule interpretations must be agreed upon between the players and Tournament Director before play begins.

1. Plays involving finger action (hand setting) require special attention. If the player decides/intends to employ finger action (hand set), as in the cases of off-speed hit defense or setting, the action must be “clean.” The hands must act together smoothly, or a “double-hit” should be called. Sets that visibly come to rest or are re-directed are “held ball, lift, or carry” faults. If the play is defensive and reactive in nature, as in the case of receiving a hard-driven “attacked” ball, double-hit contacts, or a momentarily lifted or pushed ball are not considered faults when the attempt is one continuous motion. The indicators which should affect the official’s judgment whether the contact is reactive or not are: the speed and trajectory of the ball. A “hard-driven” ball is considered to move too fast for a deliberate decision to employ setting action. A ball that rises before it falls should NOT be considered hard-driven (e.g.: a roll shot or an upward deflection of the ball off a block or the net). A ball that hits the net or a blocker could still be considered hard-driven if the defensive play is reactive in nature because the ball is still moving at a high rate of speed.
2. Players may attempt to hand set the ball on serve reception, however the ball must be handled cleanly, can never come to rest, be double-hit, lifted or carried. A served ball is NOT considered a hard-driven attack regardless of speed.
3. All hand setting should be judged consistently and fairly from game to game within each division throughout the entire tournament by every officiating team. Some leniency should be granted to the Novice and Juniors divisions to allow for double contacts since individuals in those divisions may still be learning the game. The B divisions are called a little tighter because the basic skills should already be acquired. The standard for setting within A divisions is even higher since players usually have much more experience. Of course, the AA and Open divisions have the highest standard which should be comparable to expectations found at other AA and Open tournaments across the country.
4. When an outdoor player uses a hand setting action and the ball lands in the opponent’s court, the trajectory of the ball must have been perpendicular to the line of the setter’s shoulders. It does not matter if the set was not intended to go over the net or the wind blew it over (in AA, A, B, and Novice grass divisions). (Open divisions may play by the FIVB rule which allows for the wind to blow a set over the net legally.)
5. “Open hand tipping” in outdoor volleyball is illegal. You can NOT redirect or push the ball with an open hand like indoor volleyball players. To “tip” legally, all fingers in contact with the ball must be rigid and together. Knuckles are allowed.
6. Any contact with the net is considered a fault (in AA, A, B, and Novice grass divisions) except when the ball pushes the net into you. All grass divisions play by the old “continuation” net rule which means players may not touch the net even after the ball is dead. Player contact with the net is illegal even after terminating the ball as part of a hit or block. (Open divisions may play by the new FIVB incidental contact rule.)

7. Coed, Men's and Women's A, B, Novice and Parent/Child divisions will compete on the traditional 30-foot by 30-foot court with NO let serve allowed. The ball may NOT hit the net on the serve in these divisions. Coed, Men's and Women's Open and AA divisions (and A divisions at selected tournaments) will compete on the 8-meter by 8-meter court where the let serve is allowed.
8. If no antennae are available, the posts holding up the net outside the line boundaries are considered the antennae.
9. Only the short court divisions will play the block as the first contact and any player may make the second contact of the ball after the block.
10. As soon as the ball crosses the plane of the net outside the antennae it is considered a dead ball. The pursuit rule is NOT allowed in any grass division because of the type of net systems in use. The Open divisions may pursue outside of the antennae if the facilities allow for this. The ball must cross outside (or directly above) the antennae each time it crosses the plane of the net to be legally saved.
11. A co-ed team may not participate in a women's division, but may compete in a men's division (boys under 15 may play in women's divisions).
12. Injured players may not be replaced. No substitutions will be allowed for any reason.
13. The Wilson AVP® official game ball is preferred but not required if not available on your court.
14. No refunds will be given after play has begun except for extreme extenuating circumstances approved only by the Tournament Director.
15. During pool play, a 3-minute "on court" warm-up time is allowed.
16. Teams change sides every 10 points in a game to 25, 7 points in a game to 21, and 5 points in a game to 15 unless each playing team agrees on a different arrangement with the officiating team BEFORE the match begins.
17. Most divisions will participate in pool play, followed by a single-elimination tournament except the Men's and Women's AA and Open divisions which *may* play a double-elimination tournament format at the Tournament Director's discretion.
18. Pool play match format will be designated by the Tournament Director on each pool sheet. All games will be rally score. Each match will be either 1, 2, or 3 games to 15, 21, 25, or 30 points depending on the size of your pool. All pool play games usually have a cap at 2 points greater than the listed ending score.
19. Pools usually have three to seven teams each. At least two teams from each pool should advance to a single-elimination tournament as specified by the Tournament Director.
20. All teams should be required to officiate. Teams must officiate when scheduled, including playoffs, or find a suitable replacement, or they may forfeit their next game or match at the Tournament Director's discretion.
Officials should:
 - a. call faults and resolve disputes
 - b. answer questions regarding rules (disputes with officials regarding rule interpretations should immediately come to the Tournament Director or UOVA Representative for resolution)
 - c. keep the score and record the results
 - d. make the final decision on all judgment calls
21. To correctly keep score for a pool, the official must write the score in the correct box on the score sheet for the teams playing each other.
 - a. For team Number 1, any score that is listed in the top row (from left to right) would need to have team Number 1's score listed FIRST.
 - b. For the Number 2 team, their scores would be listed FIRST in the second row and so on.

- c. It is each player's responsibility to make sure the match scores are recorded correctly. If they are incomplete, a forfeit may be recorded.
22. Bring your pool sheet to the Tournament Desk immediately after play in your pool is complete.
 23. The number of teams to advance to the playoffs will be designated by the Tournament Director on each pool sheet. Ties in a pool and between pools will be decided first by game win-loss record, second by head to head game results, third by head to head points scored against, fourth by total points scored against, and lastly by a coin toss. A team will NOT be eliminated from advancing to the playoffs because of a lower point differential or coin toss. A playoff match (or two) to 15 points with NO CAP will determine who advances in this case.
 24. When seeding for the single-elimination playoff tournament placement, the 1st place teams will play against 2nd place teams from other pools and the 1st and 2nd place teams from the same pool should not be able to meet again until the tournament finals.
 25. All tournament matches will be ONE game to 25 points with NO CAP in the single-elimination tournament unless otherwise stated by the Tournament Director.
 26. Losing teams during the single-elimination tournament are responsible to officiate the following match on their court unless BOTH the competing teams can agree on some other arrangement BEFORE the match.
 27. First, Second and Third place teams in every division are each responsible to properly take down a net and clean up the trash around that court before they can claim their prizes.

Please contact the Tournament Director or a UOVA Representative if you have any questions.

Points and Rankings Explanation

How Points are Awarded:

Novice, B, A & AA Divisions:

First place players receive 10 points

Second place players receive 8 points

Third place players receive 7 points

NOTE: there must be 6 teams in a division for points to be awarded

Advancement and Minimum Participation Rules

- Players must advance to the next highest division after his/her FIRST win in any division: Novice, B, and A, provided there are at least 6 teams competing in that division.
 - This applies to Mens, Womens, and Coed tournaments.
 - Players are NOT required to advance from AA on the grass to Open on the sand.
 - If there are less than 6 teams in a division, there is no advancement requirement, and points will not be awarded in Grass divisions.

- Each new season, the top 10 players from each division from the previous season must play in that division or higher. Those that earned points but did not finish in the top 10 may move down only 1 division during the following season.
 - For Mens Open, the top 20 Players must stay in Mens Open and/or AA.
 - If there are less than 10 players with points in a division, those players will not be required to stay in the division, but may only move down 1 division from the highest division where points were earned.
- Once a player earns points in a division, they may not play in a lower division for the remainder of that season.
- A tournament director may allow a player to play in a lower division than that required by these rules, but that player's team will not be allowed to advance out of pool play.

How top teams are selected from pools to advance to bracket/playoffs.

Generally the top two teams from each pool advance out of pool play into a single elimination bracket playoff. The top two teams are selected by overall win/loss record.

In case of a tie, pool play winners are determined first by win/loss record, second by head-to-head, third by head-to-head points scored against, and fourth by overall points scored against. If the tie is for the second seed, the third option is a playoff of one game to 15 points with no cap, or as determined by the Tournament Director. Teams cannot be eliminated by points. If tied by win/loss record, a playoff game must be played.