



Philadelphia, PA | EST. 2015

Stonewall Volleyball Philadelphia will operate under the competition rules and regulations as outlined in the Domestic Competition Rules and Regulations as adopted by USA Volleyball and available at www.usavolleyball.org. The rules below are specific to Stonewall Volleyball Philadelphia and supersede the rules in the USA Volleyball handbook.

1. Match Time and Number of Sets

- a) Each match will be played as the best of 3 sets. The first two sets of a match will be played to 25, utilizing rally scoring. If a third set is necessary, it will be played to be 15, utilizing rally scoring.
- b) The first team in a set to score 25 (or 15 for the 3rd set) will be the winner of that set.
- c) If the set score reaches 24-24, the first team to reach a two-point advantage (e.g. 26-24 or 29-27) will be the winner of that set.
- d) If a match reaches the time limit (40 minutes) before the completion of the deciding set, the teams will be allowed a maximum of 5 minutes to finish the current set. If the set does not reach a winning score by the end of the additional 5-minute window, the match will end and the team with the most points will be declared the winner of that set.
 - i. A new set may not begin after the 40-minute mark; if teams are tied 1-1 at/after 40 minutes, the match ends in a tie.
 - ii. If a final set does not reach at least 10 total points, prior to being ended for time, it will not be counted, and the score of the first two sets will stand. (example: set 3 starts at the 38-minute mark, after 40 minutes and the additional 5 minutes, the score is only 3-5 the match will be discounted.)
- e) We ask that all members be respectful of time.
 - i. Please be assembled and ready to play at least 5 minutes prior to your scheduled game time. In the event a game directly before yours is running slightly over, please be patient and ready to move directly into your game immediately upon conclusion of the game.
 - ii. During play - keep the game moving and avoid unnecessary delays. Intentionally stalling is not acceptable within the spirit of play, and may be penalized with a warning and then yellow cards for offending players, at the discretion of the referee.

3. Net Height

- a) For the purpose of a co-ed, recreational league, Stonewall Volleyball will utilize a net height at or very near to 7'9 5/8".

4. Team Composition

- a) A team may consist of up to 10 members including the Captain. Social teams may have

up to 12 players, by request.

- b) Only team members that are registered and paid members of Stonewall Volleyball are eligible to play on a team. If a non-registered player is used during a match, the opposing team may notify the referee and the match will be forfeited.
- c) A team must have at least 5 players present to play a match. Teams will be given a 5 minute grace period to present a full team of 5 after the official start of the match. At 5 minutes past the official start of the match, if at least five registered players aren't on the court a forfeit will be recorded. After the forfeit has been recorded, the teams may choose to play a friendly scrimmage match if both captains agree. A scrimmage match resulting from a forfeit must end at least 5 minutes before the beginning of the next match.
- d) In accordance with the recreational nature of Stonewall Volleyball, all players need to rotate through the game. Captain's are responsible for ensuring that their rotations are fair, and consistent. Deliberately excluding a player from a rotation for a competitive advantage will result in a red card for the team captain.

5. The Uniform

- a) Every player must be wearing their current season Stonewall Volleyball uniform shirt. Shirts may be modified for comfort, but the Stonewall logo and any sponsor logos must not be altered or obscured in any way.
- b) All players must wear athletic shoes with non-marking soles at all times.
- c) Knee pads and other protective equipment are not required but can be worn.

6. The Libero Position

- a) If a team wishes to utilize the libero position, it is the team's responsibility to clearly identify the libero and to notify the referee of the method used to identify the libero. Some suggested methods include colored arm bands, or penny-style jersey worn over the regular uniform.
- b) If a referee feels that the libero is not clearly identifiable during game play, the referee may stop play and require the team to more clearly identify their libero in order to continue utilizing the libero position.

7. Playoffs/Final Tournament

- a) At the conclusion of the regular season, a final playoff tournament will be held for the competitive teams. The seeding and structure for the tournament will be announced following the final week of regular play. Tournament structures will be designed to maximize playing time for all, while still determining a league winner - to this end, the playoff structure may not include all teams, but all teams will play at least one game in the final week.

8. Season Standings

- a) Each week, league management will update the league standings.
- b) League standings are determined (in the following order) by:
 - i. Win-loss record
 - ii. Overall point differential

9. Referees/Line Judges

- a) Stonewall Volleyball League Managers or designated officials will act as Head Refs for each match.
- b) Each team will be required to provide two (2) individuals to serve as line judges. Line judges assignments will be published prior to the beginning of the season. If a team does not provide the two (2) line judges that week, the team will be assigned a paper forfeit for their match that week.

10. Forfeits and Scoring

- a) If a team is assigned a forfeit for a match due to failure to present a full team at match time, the score for that match will be recorded as 2-0 and the score for each set will be recorded as 25-10.
- b) If a team is assigned a paper forfeit due to the inability to provide the assigned referee or line judges for a match, the score for that match will be recorded as 2-0 and the score for each set will be recorded as 25-15.

11. Game Conduct

- a) During the game, if a player(s) exhibits any behavior that deliberately subverts league rules or the mission Stonewall Sports Philadelphia organization, verbal warnings and/or removal from the match can be issued by the game's referee.
- b) Three levels of Sanctions are available to the referee to be issued at their discretion. Depending on the nature of the issue, these sanctions need not be issued in order:
 - i. Verbal warning to the player & team Captain.
 - ii. Yellow Card - to the individual player(s) committing the discretion. Service will be given to the opposing team.
 - 1. Yellow cards apply to individual players, however, they also serve as a verbal warning to the entire team. Teammates committing a similar infraction will not receive an additional warning, but will automatically be issued a yellow card.
 - iii. Red Card - Player is removed from the match, and service is given to the opposing team. The player must be legally substituted.
 - 1. Players receiving a red card are disqualified for at least the remainder of play that evening. Red cards will be reviewed by the Volleyball Director & Director of Sports Operations, who may impose additional sanctions, based on the nature of the incident.
- c) Captains may calmly discuss a play with a Referee, for the purpose of clarification of a rule or explanation of what was observed. Referees may discuss these plays with line judges, but captains may not approach line judges directly. Captains may also bring to the attention of the Referee any opposing player who they believe is intentionally violating the rules. In this case the Referee may pay specific attention to the players in question, and may call upon a member of the League Management team for additional support in doing so.
- d) No player may argue with or berate any referee - violations will be subject to immediate sanction up to and including a red card, at the discretion of the referee. Any player who exhibits overly or consistently aggressive behavior, physically contacts or

- personally insults any referee, official or opponent will receive an automatic red card.
- e) Arguments between teams, up to and including fighting, will result in ejections issued directly to involved players and may result in the immediate ending of the match at the discretion of the Referee and League Management.

11. Injuries & Player Safety

- a) Consideration for player safety must always be the first priority of all referees, officials and league managers. Referees have complete discretion to stop a game for any reason which they feel may jeopardize player safety, and have authority to take any necessary measures to ensure safe conditions prior to resuming play.
- b) In the event of an injury on the court, the game shall be stopped by the referee and the injured player removed from the court when it is possible to safely do so. If the injured player is unable to return to play, a new player should be rotated into the game to take their place.
- c) All player injuries must be reported to the League Manager on duty.