



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 before the completion of the deciding set, the teams will finish the current set. If the conclusion of that set does not determine the winner of the match (a 1-1 match score), then the third set will be played, but the score needed to win the set will be reduced to 10. In the event a 3rd match is required and the 40-minute maximum time limit has expired, the game may continue for an additional 5-minutes maximum. The team with the most points at the end of 5-minutes will be the winner.
- e) We ask that all members be respectful of both our facilities time and space. 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 over time, please be patient and ready to move directly into your game immediately upon conclusion of the game.

2. Playing area

- a) Due to venue availability and limitations, the designated free area around the competition area may be smaller than outlined in the USAVB rule book.

3. Net Height

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

4. Team Composition

- a) A team may consist of up to 12 members including the Captain.
- 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 start a match. Teams will be given a 5-minute grace period to present a full team of 6 after the official start of the match. At

5 minutes past the official start of the match, if a full team of at least six 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 to play. Any 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 present eligible players from a team must play through one full serve/receive rotation before the conclusion of the second set.
- e) The play of all team members must occur within the first two sets of a match, and must occur within the 12 legal substitutions of a team.
- f) The Team Captain must present the team lineup to the referee at the beginning of each set. The team must maintain this rotational order throughout the set.

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.
- b) The seeding for the tournament will be determined by the following:
 - i. Final standings from the regular season
 - ii. Intent to have teams play teams they have not played during the regular season
 - iii. Respect to the availability of the tournament venue and team schedules

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
 - iii. Ratio of 2-set matches won to 3-set matches won.

9. Referees/Line Judges

- a) Stonewall Volleyball League Managers 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 25-15.
- 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 25-0.

11. Game Conduct

- a) During the game, if a player(s) exhibits any behavior that deliberately breaches a rule of the league or spirit of the 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 team Captain.
 - ii. Verbal warning to the individual player(s) committing the discretion, but in force for the entire team. Service will be given to the opposing team.
 - iii. Player is removed from the match by the referee. The player must be legally substituted.
- 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 an immediate warning. Any player who exhibits overly or consistently aggressive behavior, physically contacts or personally insults any referee, official or opponent will receive an automatic ejection.
- 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.