

Anchorage Sports Association

Volleyball Council By-Laws



Article 1

Rules

The official United States Volleyball Association (USAV) rules shall be part of the by-laws of the Anchorage Volleyball Council (AVC) as they are herein set forth in full. The following by-laws are amended as necessary to be consistent and compliant with these rules as they exist now or as amended by USAV.

Article 2

Liability and Protection

This program is recreational and those who participate recognize the hazards of participation. Participants will not hold Anchorage Sports, their agents, or their representatives liable for any injury that occurs as a result of participation in this program.

Article 3

Administration

Members of the volleyball leagues will elect a Council Board as outlined in Article 4, Sections I and II of the Association's Constitution to administer the volleyball program as allowed by Article 4. The exception shall be that the Council will not elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, or Player Representative from each Division.

- I. The Council Board has the authority to set up policies and procedures for their Council provided they do not conflict with the Association's Constitution and overriding policies and procedures of the Executive Board.
- II. The Council Board President, Vice-President, and Recording Secretary will all be from different divisions and will be elected from the General Membership of the Council.
- III. A quorum will consist of at least 50% of all possible council members.
- IV. All meetings will be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order.

Article 4

Committees

The Volleyball Council will be authorized to appoint standing committees necessary for the proper functioning of the Council. These committees are, but not limited to, the following:

- I. Tournament
- II. Program Development
- III. Classification (see Article 6, Section IV)
- IV. Protest/Disciplinary (see Article 8, Section II and Article 10, Section IIIA)

Article 5

Registration and Membership

Players will register on official player contract forms, online or hardcopy, designating the team and league in which they intend to play. Such application for registration will not be accepted for filing without a paid membership fee. If the player is a minor, under 18, the application needs approved by the player's parent or guardian. A player is not eligible for play until his/her application has been approved at the Anchorage Sports office.

- I. Membership will be open to any person 14 years of age or older at the beginning of the current season. The beginning of the current season is the first regularly scheduled game for which the player contract is signed.
- II. All player registrations will expire at the end of each season. Player fees are due at the beginning of each season.
- III. Only players officially entered on a team roster are eligible to play in scheduled games. The use of an ineligible player will result in an automatic forfeiture of the game by the offending team and disciplinary action against the team manager, including up to one year suspension.
- IV. No player may be listed on more than one team roster in a division, (ie. Men's, Women's, Coed, Reverse Coed). Players violating this rule will be automatically disqualified from further participation in AVC play for the remainder of the season.
- V. A player must be released by his/her manager in writing, and managers must release players upon request. Players who are released or ask to be released and sign with another team must sign another player contract with the release attached. A player must wait forty-eight (48) hours after the volleyball office has signed the release before playing for another team. A transfer fee will be charged. Transfers are unlimited, and the following fees will be applied accordingly:

1st transfer: ten dollars (\$10)

2nd transfer: twenty-five dollars (\$25)

3rd and any subsequent transfers: current player fee

Article 6

Scheduling for League Play

- I. Schedules will be drafted by the Volleyball Director with courts, dates, and times assigned. Schedules will be posted online. Managers may request copies at the Anchorage Sports Office.
- II. The assignment of referees to all league and tournament games will be done by an organization designated by the Council.
- III. The Council will determine the types of tournaments and playoffs to be conducted for the duration of the season.
- IV. The Council or Classification Committee will determine the reclassification of all teams.
- V. All league matches will be two (2) out of three (3) games per match with a 55 minute time limit. If the time limit is reached, the winning team only needs to win by one (1) point.
- VI. Any team that forfeits three (3) or more games in a season due to lack of players will be subject to disciplinary action and/or associated fees.

Article 7

Regulations for League Play

The games will be played according to the rules of USAV. The following game regulations will be official for all leagues:

- I. All teams will compete with six (6) players. Coed teams must have three (3) men and three (3) women on the court at all times. Reverse Coed teams must have two (2) men and four (4) women on the court at all times.
- II. Substitutions will follow USAV rules.
- III. Ground rules specific to facilities will be available to each team prior to league play.
- IV. Only the captain has the right to discuss disputes on rule interpretations with the officials.

- V. Jerseys: During league play, all players must wear a numbered jersey. While the preference is that numbers be on front and back, a jersey with a number on the back only is acceptable. Duplicate numbers are not allowed. During tournament play, all teams must have similar jerseys with a minimum 8" number on the back and a minimum 6" number on the chest. Duplicate numbers are not allowed. Liberos must be easily distinguishable from other players with a different colored jersey. The jersey rule will be strictly enforced during tournament play.
- VI. Spectators (to include children) accompanying a team are not allowed to inhibit play or delay games by physical encroachment on or near the court. Spectators must be off the playing area (defined by the thick black lines around the court). It is the teams' responsibility to keep all non-players off the court. Violation of this could be considered delay of game and officials will take appropriate action against the offending team. Penalty may include up to a match forfeiture.
- VII. All team classifications are determined by a team's win/loss record from the previous season. "Previous season" is defined by the previous season for the applicable division/league. It is the responsibility of the Volleyball Director to classify new teams to the appropriate division of play. In a combined league where a point spot is used for a higher classified team playing in a lower league, classification will be used for the upcoming season from the team's previous season of play with teams of the same classification. Leagues that are offered in the off season will not affect the regular coed, reverse coed, men's, or women's classification.
- a. A team may acquire one (1) player from a higher classification in Men's/Women's leagues or one (1) male and one (1) female player in Coed and Reverse Coed leagues.
 - b. If an existing team returns with four (4) or more players and had a win/loss record in the previous season of .300 or above, the team will not be considered for reclassification to a lower level. If a returning team had a win/loss record of less than .300 in the previous season and in the judgement of the Volleyball Director cannot compete at the present level of play, that team may be considered for lower reclassification.
 - c. Teams that re-formed in order to avoid upward reclassification must have three (3) or less players from the previous season's roster or a combination of three (3) or less players from any reclassified team in their league in order to be considered a new team. In coed, only one (1) of the three (3) players may be male, and in reverse coed only one (1) of the three (3) players may be female. Re-formed teams may **not** acquire any players from a higher classification, regardless of league or gender. Classifications will be determined based on the previous season's play.

- d. A returning team will retain its classification from the previous season with the following exceptions:
 - i. The team is reclassified to a lower level in accordance with (B) above.
 - ii. The team is reclassified to the next higher level as a result of satisfying the following criteria:
 - 1. Single Division Leagues – win/loss record from the previous season is .850 or better in league play.
 - 2. Multiple Division Leagues – win/loss record from the previous season is .850 or better in league play AND the team placed in the top 50% of participating teams in the previous season playoff tournament.
- e. All special circumstances involving classification decisions which may come up that are not explicitly covered by these guidelines shall be decided by the Volleyball Director. Any Association member affected by these decisions has the right to appeal to the Council Classification Committee and/or the Volleyball Council.

VIII. Only female players will participate in Women's league and only male players will participate in Men's leagues. No mixed play will be permitted as long as a viable program is available for both men and women to compete in the sport of volleyball. Exceptions are Coed and Reverse Coed leagues.

Article 8

Protests and Procedures

- I. Protests and rule interpretations will be accepted only if they conform with the Protest rule (Rule 13) of the USAV Official Guide.
- II. The Council Protest/Disciplinary Committee shall be composed of the Council Board President, who will serve as chairperson, and four (4) members appointed by the Council Board President, one (1) from each division (ie. Men's, Women's, Coed, and Reverse Coed).
- III. Whenever a protest arises during a match, the Captain of the protesting team shall immediately notify the officials and the opposing team captain before the next serve that the match is being played under protest from that point. This will provide all interested person an opportunity to take notice of the conditions surrounding the marking of the decisions and will aid in the proper determination of the issue. Failure of a team to follow this procedure shall forfeit its right to file an official protest.

- IV. The formal written protest must be filed within forty eight hours (48) of the match in question and submitted on an Official Protest Form. The form shall be delivered to the Volleyball Director, who will forward it to the Protest/Disciplinary Committee for a decision. A filing fee of \$25 must accompany all protests. If the protest is allowed, the fee is returned. If it is not allowed, the fee reverts to the treasury. The formal written protests should contain the following information:
 - a. The day, time, and place of the match.
 - b. The name of the official.
 - c. The rule and section of the Official Rules or local rules under which the protest is being made.
 - d. The decision and condition surrounding the making of the decision.
 - e. All essential facts involved in the matter protested.
- V. The decision made on a protested game must result in one of the following:
 - a. The protest is found invalid and the game score stands as played.
 - b. The protest is found valid for misinterpretation of a playing rule. The game will be replayed from the point at which the incorrect decision was made with the decision corrected.
 - c. The protest is found valid on the basis of an ineligible player. The team with the ineligible player will forfeit the match being played or the match last played.
- VI. Protests based on rules interpretations or player eligibility during tournament play must be settled by the Tournament Protest Committee, as designated by the Tournament Director, and the officials before the match proceeds.

Article 9

Personal Behavior

- I. All coaches and players are required to know the rules of the game and abide by them. There shall be certain standards of conduct expected from every member and person associated with a team before, during, and after a match. Unsportsmanlike conduct as deemed by the Officials, Council Officers, or the designee of the Volleyball Director will bring disciplinary action against the offending player(s). Unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to, game delays, abusive language, smoking or alcohol consumption within the playing facilities, and failure to abide by facility rules and policies. Team managers are ultimately responsible for the actions of their players and

spectators. If a match cannot be continued in a sportsmanlike manner and all avenues of redress have been made, the match will be forfeited by the offending team.

Article 10

Disqualifications and Sanctions

- I. The following acts of managers, coaches, team members, fans, and children are subject to sanction:
 - a. Unsportsmanlike conduct
 - b. Physically or verbally assaulting any person in attendance or involved in any USAV sanctioned volleyball match
 - c. Making profane or vulgar remarks or acts to officials, opponents, or spectators.
 - d. Committing actions tending to influence decisions of officials.
 - e. Committing actions to distract opponents and/or officials, causing a delay in the game.
 - f. Unattended children in the playing areas.
 - g. Commission of fraud, such as playing under an assumed name.
 - h. Playing an ineligible player in a league or tournament game.
- II. Sanctions – Offenses committed by coaches, players, children and/or other team members before, during, or after a match may result in warnings, penalties, expulsions, disqualifications, and/or disciplinary action by the Council's Protest/Disciplinary Committee.
- III. Disciplinary Procedures
 - a. The person(s) subject to disciplinary action shall be entitled to a hearing before the council Protest/Disciplinary Committee. This committee shall consist of the Council Board President, who serves as chairperson, and four (4) members appointed by the Council Board President, one from each Division of play (i.e. Men's, Women's, Coed, and Reverse).
 - b. The person(s) must be notified in writing of the time, place, and date of the hearing. Members are entitled to an alternate date if for a good cause the original date is not acceptable. Should the accused fail to attend the hearing, the person conducting the hearing may proceed and take the evidence of those in attendance.

- c. Players may be informally suspended from play pending a formal hearing at the time of the infraction. If the infraction takes place during the season of play, the hearing must be held within ten (10) days of the infraction.
 - d. After hearing all evidence, the Protest/Disciplinary committee may take whatever action they deem appropriate in accordance with this Article. The person(s) charged shall be advised in writing within seven (7) days by the Committee chairman of the action taken. A copy of the action shall be sent to the Regional USAV Commissioner.
 - e. Any person(s) suspended from the Association or Council may appeal to the Regional USAV Commissioner. They must appeal in writing within fifteen (15) days after the mailing by the committee of the notice of suspension.
 - f. Under NO circumstances will any suspended individual be allowed to participate in any Association activity until they have served their term of suspension.
- IV. Penalties: A Player may be put on probation or suspended for a period of time at the discretion of the Protest/Disciplinary Committee for violations outlined in this Article, with the exception that an act of physical violence will require a minimum of one (1) year loss of eligibility.

Article 11

Awards

The Council Board will determine what league trophies and special awards will be awarded.