



## Girls Volleyball Rules

### **BALL SIZE**

- AGES 5 – 6: Nerf Style ball (Teams will be provided one for practice)
- AGES 7 – 9: Volleyball Lite (Official Size, but Lighter Weight)
- AGES 10 – 15: Regulation sized volleyball

### **NET HEIGHT**

- Approximately 7'

### **NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

- All age levels MUST have six players on the court.
- NO FORFEITS.
- Only time a game can be played with less players is if less than six show up to participate.
- If a team shows up with less than 6 players, they may borrow players from the opposition to allow more participants to play during the game.

### **SERVICE**

- At the start of the game a coin toss will determine who serves first.
- Play/rally begins with a serve by the serving team.
- Players may serve underhand or overhand at all levels.
- In the 5-6 and 7-9 year old divisions, players may serve up to ten feet in front of the end line
  - Halfway between the attack line and the end line.
  - Maximum of 3 contacts before the ball goes over the net. Receiving team can either catch the serve or pass it to a teammate. If the receiving player catches the serve (this is considered 1<sup>st</sup> team contact), the player must then make a two-handed, underhand toss to another teammate. The teammate must then play the ball with a forearm pass, overhead set, or spike (this is considered 2<sup>nd</sup> team contact).
  - After the serve is caught, the receiving player should not be taking steps other than turning to face the teammate to whom the ball is being tossed. If the ball is caught, the player must toss the ball to a teammate who may then play the ball over the net or pass/set the ball to another teammate.

- In the 10-12 and 13-15 year old divisions:
  - Players may serve anywhere behind and along the endline.
  - Maximum of 3 contacts before the ball goes over the net. No catching allowed.
- Attacking the serve is not allowed. Contact with the ball must be made below the height of the net if it is directed to the opposing team.

### **AUTOMATIC SIDE OUTS AND SERVING LIMITS**

Ages 5-6, 7-9: An automatic sideout occurs after a team has scored 3 straight points while serving.

Ages 10-12: An automatic sideout occurs after a team has scored 5 straight points while serving.

Ages 13-15: The server will continue to serve until their serve is broken.

### **TIME LIMIT**

- Matches are limited to 55 minutes.
- Teams can play as many games as the fifty-five minute timeframe allows.
- First two games will consist of 25 points (a team needs to win by two points).
- At the end of the fifty minutes, if in the middle of a game, game ends as is.

### **TIMEOUTS**

- Each team will be allowed two 30-second timeouts per game.

### **ROTATIONS**

- All players present at the game are required to play in each game.
- Players should sit along the end line in rotation order when not in the game.
- Rotation occurs after a sideout and only the serving team rotates.
- The team losing the serve does not rotate.
- Must occur in a clockwise direction with the server rotating out and a new player rotating into the middle/back row (non-serving) position.
- Team rotation remains the same from game to game.
- Substitutions will be allowed for injuries only.

### **NET PLAY**

- A player can never touch the net while the ball is in play
- Players may play a ball off the net. If a player's hand or foot completely crosses the plane of the centerline, it is a violation.

## **OUT OF BOUNDS**

If the ball hits the line it is in. If there are multiple games going on at once and the ball enters another court it is out of play. If the ball hits the ceiling on your side you may continue play. If the ball hits the ceiling on the opposing team's side it is considered out of bounds. A ball that hits the net but continues to the opponent's side is permitted. These are all judgment calls and officials will have the final say on all calls.

## **SCORING**

Rally score system will be used (teams receive a point for each point won regardless of service).

## **VIOLATIONS**

- Net fouls will be called on all age levels.
- It is illegal for the same player to play the ball in two consecutive contacts (double-hit).
  
- Illegal Hits: two-hand open palm hits (underhand or overhand) or throwing hits will be called on all age levels. One hand is legal as long as the ball does not come to a rest
  - **AGES 5 – 6 and 7 – 9: Illegal hits will be called more liberally.**
  - **AGES 10 – 12 and 13 – 15: Illegal hits will be called tighter with underhand pass (hand together) and overhand set (brief contacts with finger pads).**
  
- BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT- the official will interpret this: If a child is attempting to do a skill properly (i.e. setting), but fails to accomplish it totally correct, the official may allow the hit and subsequent point if won. Incidental hits will be considered legal. The official will determine if the ball is incorrectly hit by blowing the play dead and awarding a point. Play should always continue until this has occurred. Double hits will not be allowed. Screening will not be allowed.
  
- ONLY PLAYERS (this includes players on the bench) may yell if a ball is going to land in or out of bounds. Parents and coaches should not call their players off a ball that the player may be going for regardless of whether it is in or out. Let the children use their own judgment.

## **REMINDERS**

SPORTSMANSHIP- all coaches, players, parents, and spectators must conduct themselves in a manner that keeps to the NYS mission and the NYS philosophy. Remember that competition is fun. We are here to learn and more importantly HAVE FUN!

NO FOOD OR DRINKS IN THE GYM!!! Team snacks must be given out outside of the facility. We are at the mercy of these facilities and must respect their property.