

Newport Volleyball Club Tournament Policies and Code of Conduct

1. PURPOSE

- a. The purpose of this document is to specify the Code of Conduct to apply to and be binding upon all Players, Coaches, Referees (Work Teams) and Tournament Officials participating in any event of, or activity associated with, the Newport Volleyball Club (NVC).

2. CITY OF NEWPORT EASTON'S BEACH AND NARRAGANSETT TOWN BEACH POLICIES

- a. No Alcohol or Tobacco Products shall be served or present.
- b. All trash must be disposed of in proper trash receptacles or put in plastic bags and removed from tournament or league site at the end of the event.
- c. All City of Newport or Town of Narragansett Ordinances must be obeyed at all times.

3. GENERAL

- a. Every Player shall, during all matches and at all times whilst within the tournament "precinct", conduct himself/herself in a sportsman-like manner, in accordance with the provisions as outlined in this Code of Conduct.
- b. For the purpose of this document, the tournament "precinct" shall be defined as all sections of the beach/venue which are under the formal control of NVC Event Management.
- c. For the purposes of this document, the term "set" refers to individual games played.
- d. All players' tournament entry fees must be paid in full prior to the start of the tournament.
 - i. Walk-on's may ONLY pay via CASH.
- e. All players must have a valid AVP membership for tournament play. No player may engage in tournament play without a valid AVP membership.
- f. All players must sign an NVC waiver/alcohol policy/IRS 1099 form on file with tournament staff before engaging in play.
- g. NVC utilizes all FIVB beach rules.

4. TOURNAMENT SEEDINGS AND POOLS

- a. NVC Tournament Directors shall have the authority to reassign teams within the tournament divisions for reasons of competitive balance or tournament equity.
- b. The tournament seeding committee shall be comprised of a minimum 3 individuals from separate teams to rank teams from highest to lowest overall division ranking.
 - i. Rankings are determined by previous tournament results, AVP rankings and general knowledge and consensus of opinion by the tournament ranking committee.
- c. Pools shall be filled by the tournament committee according to the pool seeding sheets depending on the number of teams entered.
- d. A serpentine method of pool creation shall be used to ensure fair and equitable competition for all teams (the highest 1 seed plays the lowest 2 seed, the lowest 1 seed plays the highest 2 seed, the lowest 2 seed plays the highest 3 seed, etc. to ensure fair competition).
- e. All teams making the playoffs are re-seeded utilizing Pool Record/Total Points/Coin Flip to determine playoff rankings.
- f. Any player may register for a AA division with the following constraints:
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 1. Open level players who have broken pool in 50% (or more) of the Open level tournaments they have competed in are ineligible.

2. AA players that have won two AA tournaments in the same season may be deemed ineligible.
3. Open level players who have made it to the semifinals or finals of an Open level tournament may be deemed ineligible to play AA for the rest of the season.

5. PUNCTUALITY

- a. Matches shall follow each other without delay in accordance with the advertised order of play or as amended by the NVC Tournament Committee.
- b. Teams will be permitted an allocated maximum of TEN (10) minutes to be used on court for warm-up.
- c. The order of play will be displayed in a highly visible place, so all Players should ensure they check on this regularly.
- d. The match warm-up time shall commence immediately upon the completion of the previous match.
- e. It is the responsibility of the work team and each playing team to be prepared to commence warm-up at the completion of the previous match as well as to start the subsequent match after the appointed warm-up time period of TEN (10) minutes.
- f. All teams are required to commence play at the instruction of the Referee
- g. Either team not ready to commence play at the allocated match start time shall;
 - i. Concede 1 point to their opponent for every minute, or part thereof, that they are late after the official match starting time
 - ii. If, after 5 minutes the team is not ready to play they shall forfeit that set.
 - iii. The same process as outlined in i & ii shall be repeated for the second set (if the playing format allows for multiple sets).
- h. The Tournament Director, after due consideration of all relevant circumstances, may elect under extraordinary circumstances not to declare a forfeit (loss of set). Such decision will be made immediately.

6. LEAVING THE COURT

- a. A Player shall not leave the immediate playing area during a match without the permission of the Referee or other Tournament official.
- b. Violation shall subject a team to automatically forfeit the match.
- c. If, in the opinion of the NVC Tournament Director, a player has failed to justify such an action, he/she must show cause to the NVC Tournament Director as to why he/she should be permitted to continue their participation in that or any subsequent NVC event.

7. BEST EFFORTS

- a. A Player must use his/her best efforts to win a match.
- b. If, in the opinion of the NVC Tournament Director, a player has failed to do so, he/she must show cause to the NVC Tournament Director as to why he/she should be permitted to continue their participation in that or any subsequent NVC event.

8. FAILURE TO COMPLETE A MATCH

- a. A Player must complete a match in progress unless he/she is reasonably unable to do so.
- b. Violation shall subject a team to automatically forfeit the match.
- c. A forfeit will be recorded as a loss of match with points recorded as winning score for winner and points as they stand for the forfeiting team.
- d. If, in the opinion of the NVC Tournament Director, a player has failed to provide a reasonable explanation, he/she must show cause to the NVC Tournament Director as to why he/she should be permitted to continue their participation in that or any subsequent NVC event.

9. INTERRUPTIONS TO PLAY

- a. Unreasonable Delays
 - i. Players must commence play upon the order of the work team.
 - ii. Thereafter, except for allowed periods of time-out and change of ends, play shall be continuous and a player shall not unreasonably delay a match for any cause.
- b. Start of Rally
 - i. Where possible the minimum amount of time shall elapse from the moment the end of the rally to the moment the next rally begins.
 - ii. Any unreasonable delay will subject the offending team to a point penalty.
- c. Change Of Ends
 - i. For all matches play shall be continuous upon the change of ends.
 - ii. Failure by any team to meet this requirement shall result in the awarding of 1 point (and service) to the opponent.
- d. Time Outs
 - i. Each team is afforded two (2) one minute time outs per set
 - ii. Each player is afforded one (1) three minute injury time out per match
 - i. In the event an injured player is not able to continue play after the three minutes have expired, the match will be recorded as a forfeit with the accumulated points standing for the forfeiting team.
 - iii. A "Sand Time out" can be taken to allow a player to quickly remove excessive sand after a rally

10. Work Team Responsibilities

- a. Work teams must referee all matches they are scheduled to referee.
- b. Work teams should be punctual, available to begin their refereeing duties immediately upon completion of the prior match.
 - i. In the event a work team is not present and prepared for their work assignment, a point penalty of five (5) points will be assessed on their next set.
- c. Work teams are obligated to adhere to the TEN (10) minute warm-up time between matches. The work time will ensure that both teams begin game play within the TEN (10) minute time period between matches.
 - i. In the event a team fails to conclude warm-ups or is not present on the court on time to begin the match, refer to section 5 G above.
- d. Work teams are obligated to provide their undivided attention to the match and show no favor or bias to a player or team.
- e. Work teams should monitor all play for faults or violations of game play (net faults, ball handling or contact faults, out of bounds, service faults, etc...).

- f. Work teams should enforce all misconduct rules and penalties as outlined in section 11 below.
 - i. For sections 11 G and 11 I, report misconduct to the NVC Tournament Director as soon as possible, halt play if deemed necessary.
 - ii. For repeated misconduct by a player or team, report misconduct to the NVC Tournament Director as soon as possible, halt play if deemed necessary.
- g. Work teams should keep track of game score and serving order for both teams during the match as well as properly update the pool sheet scores at the completion of the match.
- h. If a work team is unable to view a controversial play due to obstructed view, a replay should be awarded.
- i. In ALL cases of judgment calls, the Tournament Officials will NEVER overturn the call made by a work team.
- j. In cases of rules interpretations, the NVC Tournament Officials may be asked in the form of a protest by a team playing the match to make an immediate ruling on the correct interpretation or enforcement of a rule.
 - i. Protests must be made verbally and clearly to the work team for the match without delay.
 - ii. The work team should immediately escalate the protest to NVC Tournament Officials for review and ruling.

11. MISCONDUCT

- a. During competition the following misconduct categories, sanctions and sanction scale shall apply.
 - i. Unsportsmanlike conduct – argumentation, intimidation, etc.
 - ii. Rude conduct – acting contrary to good manners or moral principles, expressing contempt.
 - iii. Offensive conduct – defamatory or insulting words or gestures.
 - iv. Aggression – physical attack or intended aggression.
 - v. Theft – Taking something that is not yours.
- b. Misconduct penalties shall be by a point penalty awarded against the offending team. In the event of the misconduct occurring after conclusion of a match or outside of match play, point(s) may be assessed at the beginning of the team’s next match.
*Misconduct rules G and I contain specific penalties as outlined within each rule.
- c. Audible Obscenity
 - i. Players shall not use an audible obscenity within the tournament “precinct”.
 - ii. For the purpose of this rule, “audible obscenity” shall be defined as the use of language commonly known and understood to be profane and uttered clearly and loudly enough to be heard by the Referee, opponents or spectators.
- d. Visible Obscenity
 - i. Players shall not make obscene gestures of any kind within the tournament “precinct”.
 - ii. For the purpose of this rule, “visible obscenity” shall be defined as any actions or gestures by a player that commonly have an obscene meaning, understood by a reasonable person, or of an inappropriate nature.
- e. Abuse of the Ball
 - i. Players shall not violently, dangerously, in frustration or anger, throw or kick the ball except in the reasonable pursuit of a rally.

- ii. Players shall not intentionally strike, kick or throw a ball out of the immediate area of the playing court, strike a ball dangerously or recklessly, or strike a ball with negligent disregard of the consequences inside or outside of the playing area.
- f. Abuse of the Net or Court Fixtures
 - i. Players shall not violently, dangerously, recklessly, in frustration or anger, hit or pull on the net, other court fixtures, signage or other facilities.
- g. Theft of NVC / Tournament Equipment or Fellow Player Property
 - i. NVC & sanctioned agents shall be imposing a ZERO TOLERANCE on violation of this Code of Conduct item. Any players found to be in breach of this item shall face automatic suspension and shall be afforded no recourse in overturning such sanction. Additionally, appropriate law enforcement agencies may be contacted if deemed necessary.
- h. Verbal Abuse
 - i. Players shall not at any time abuse the referee, teammates, opponents, spectators or Tournament officials.
 - ii. For the purpose of this rule, “verbal abuse” shall be defined as statement(s) that imply dishonesty, negligence or are derogatory, insulting or otherwise abusive.
- i. Physical Abuse
 - i. Players shall not at any time physically abuse or intend physical harm to any referee, teammate, opponents, spectators or Tournament official.
 - ii. Any players found to be in breach of this item shall face automatic suspension and shall be afforded no recourse in overturning such sanction (Duration to be determined by the NVC Tournament Committee). Additionally, appropriate law enforcement agencies may be contacted if deemed necessary.
- j. Unsportsmanlike Conduct
 - i. Players shall at all times conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner, giving due regard to the authority of all tournament officials and the rights of teammates, opponents and spectators.
 - ii. For the purpose of this rule, “unsportsmanlike conduct” shall be defined as any conduct by a player that is clearly abusive, detrimental to the success of the tournament or the sport.
 - iii. This shall include “heckling” by players both on and off the court area and any attempts to influence the referee’s decisions or interfere with an opponent’s play.