

## **2024 Harvest New Beginnings Volleyball Rules and Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Sportsmanship**

Being competitive on the field is applauded & encouraged in all our leagues! It is also important to understand that there is a fine line between being competitive & being unsportsmanlike. All players and referees should treat one another with respect on the field & after the game. Everyone must go to work tomorrow, so please keep safety & sportsmanship in mind out there! Let's do all for the glory of God.

### **Beginning of the Game**

The official will call both captains to the net at the beginning of the game to clarify any court rules and conduct a coin flip. The winning team can choose to serve, receive, or pick a side to play on. The losing team then picks the remaining choice. Prior to the second game, teams will switch sides and the serving team from game one will receive and vice versa. Prior to the third game, teams will switch sides again returning to the original serving team. For time saving purposes, no coin flip will be conducted before the third game. Teams will have to agree on the ball being used for play. If teams agree, then any ball fine. If they don't, we fall back on a Players ball.

### **General Rules**

- Whenever Harvest rules don't address an issue, USA Volleyball rules will be used as a default set of rules. Click [here](#) for USA Volleyball Rulebook.
- Each team has one timeout per game that they may choose to use (thirty seconds in length).
- Let serves (serves that contact the net and then cross to the receiving side) count as legal serves.
- A double contact by the same player while making one attempt to play the ball is allowed on the first contact on a side. This applies each time the ball crosses the net to the other side.
- There are no male/female attacking rules in coed leagues.
- A block does not count as one of a team's three contacts.
- A player may not block a serve or attack a serve above the plane of the net.
- No player may touch the net during a play unless the ball or an opposing player causes the contact with the net. Player contact with the net in a manner not directly relating to or affecting the course of play is NOT a violation.

- Players may reach over the net to block any attack or attempt to play the ball over the net. Other contacts can be played only once they cross into the plane of the net.
- If games are being played on adjacent courts, players may not cross into another court. If a player crosses into an adjacent court either before, during, or after playing a ball, he or she will be called out of bounds with the point awarded to the other team.

### **Playoff Information**

All teams make the playoffs. Teams will be seeded based on the following criteria:

- 1) Game record is used to determine place in standings and will be used to determine playoff seeding.
- 2) If two teams are tied in game record:
  - a. Head-to-head result(s) (matches first, then games)
  - b. Least number of forfeits
  - c. Overall match record
  - d. Combined winning % of opponents.
  - e. Points
- 3) If three or more teams are tied in game record:
  - a. Head-to-head game record versus all tied teams
  - b. Head-to-head match record versus all tied teams
  - c. Least number of forfeits
  - d. Combined winning % of opponents.
  - e. Points

### **How many weeks is the league?**

The season lasts 8 weeks which includes one week of playoffs.

### **What time will we play?**

All league games begin at 6pm with games following at 7pm and 8pm. We ask that all teams arrive 10 to 15 minutes early so that when it your time to play you are ready to go. You will have 5 minutes before your match to warm up on the court you are playing on.

### **When will receive a schedule?**

Team Captains will receive the schedules via email in advance of the night you are to play. They will receive only the first week schedule upfront as to limit confusions with multiple schedules. This is being done to allow additional teams into the league after the first week. Following the 1st week the full schedule will again be provided to the captains and posted on our website.

### **What are the games played to and what kind of scoring is used?**

All leagues will play 3 games to 21 which is a hard capped number, meaning that the first team to 21 wins. There is no win by 2 in the league play. We also use rally point scoring which means

everything is a point. Your referee is responsible for updating your scores online. The referee will enter number of wins and points the team scored against your team. The points against is for tie breaking purposes only as it relates to playoffs and seeding for the playoffs.

### **How many teams make playoffs?**

Everyone will participate in the playoff's week 8. If all teams have the same numbers of games, then it will be on wins versus losses. However, in many cases we end up with the teams having played an odd number of games. This happens when we have an odd number of teams or have teams join the league late. When a league has a team or teams with an odd number of games your win percentage will dictate if you make playoffs. This calculated number of wins divided by total games played. If there are ties in number of wins or in win percentage then we use points against as the tiebreaker.

### **What is the format for playoffs?**

Same as regular games.

### **Can you make substitutions during a match?**

A team may substitute a player between points but may only do so as a server.

### **What if a player on your roster cannot make your League Match?**

You may substitute a player that is not on your roster. However, you cannot substitute a player on your team from a consistently winning team. This means that an advance player cannot go down and sub with intermediate team and an intermediate player cannot go down and play with recreational team. No exceptions.

### **How many females are required to be on the court at any time?**

This league is a coed league. A minimum of 5 people should be on the court at a time, maximum 6 and at least one female is required to be on the court at all times.

### **Is there an age requirement?**

For this league the age requirement is 16 and up.

### **What skill level should I play?**

Recreational Players:

If your new to the game or just want to have fun this is the league for you. Great for Christian fellowship and a nice way to meet new friends.