

BRISTOL RECREATION

CO-ED VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

2019 – 2020

RULES & BYLAWS



2019-09-27

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SECTION A. LEAGUE OFFICIALS

A.1 INTRODUCTION

The Bristol Recreation Co-Ed Volleyball League is a sanctioned activity of the Town of Bristol Rhode Island Department of Parks and Recreation. The League is comprised of two League Co-Commissioners, Referees, Team Captains, Team Co-Captains, and Players. The purpose of the league is to provide Recreational Volleyball to its participants following the general rules of play as prescribed by USA Volleyball, and to follow the guidelines of an official activity of the Department of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Bristol RI. This document outlines the duties of league officials, the composition and character of the league and its teams, and rules and regulations governing this activity. This section outlines the duties of the League Officials.

A.2 DUTIES OF THE CO-COMMISSIONERS

The League Co-Commissioners are positions appointed by the Department of Parks and Recreation for the purpose of administering the Volleyball League and reporting all League activities to the Department of Recreation as well as acting as the official representative of the Department of Recreation during League activities. The specific duties of the Co-Commissioners are as follows:

1. SCHEDULING OF FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

The Co-Commissioners are responsible for scheduling playing facility dates and times with the appropriate controlling agency(s), scheduling individual teams for regular season and playoff matches, and other events including tournaments and the awards banquet.

2. PURCHASING OF EQUIPMENT AND AWARDS

The Co-Commissioners are responsible for purchasing volleyball nets, standards, and referee stands (if required), scoring equipment, and miscellaneous supplies including first-aid equipment, copies of league documents, etc. The Co-Commissioners are also responsible for the purchase of awards at the end of the season as well as insuring all debts are settled for the banquet, tournaments, and other activities.

3. ADMINISTERING SALARIES TO REFEREES AND PAID CONTRACTORS

The Co-Commissioners are responsible for paying Referees and other Contractors required for the league.

4. ADMINISTERING LEAGUE FINANCES

The Co-Commissioners are responsible for collecting Player Fees from each team and delivering these fees to the Department of Recreation for deposit in the appropriate League Account, and collecting player fees and depositing them in the Bristol Volleyball League Account.

The Co-Commissioners are also responsible for reporting all purchases required from the League Account to the Department of Recreation on a regular basis. The Co-Commissioners are required to present detailed financial reports to the Department of Recreation and Team Captains at the end of each season.

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5. APPOINTMENT OF TEAM CAPTAINS AND MAINTENANCE OF LEAGUE ROSTERS

The Co-Commissioners are responsible for appointing a Team Captain for each team to a person deemed responsible in properly representing the individual team in the League. This appointment will be made with the recommendation of the majority of the Co-Commissioner and League Captains. The ultimate appointment, however, remains at the discretion of the League Co-Commissioners.

The Co-Commissioners maintain a list of all active and inactive players in the league, and for insuring that all players have signed a waiver of liability as prescribed by the Solicitor of the Town of Bristol.

The Co-Commissioners also maintain a list of people interested in participating in the league but unable to due to quota restrictions.

6. MAINTAIN LEAGUE STATISTICS

The Co-Commissioners are responsible for maintaining team statistics during the season for number of wins, losses and team scores and utilizing these statistics for generating Weekly League Standings. The Weekly Standings are reported on the League's website on a weekly basis as a testimony to the League's existence and operation and for the purposes of resolving inadvertent recording errors.

7. ENFORCEMENT OF RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND LEAGUE RULES

The Co-Commissioners are responsible for enforcing all League rules agreed upon by the Captains of each team at a meeting held during the off-season, as well as enforcing all rules prescribed for the league by the Department of Recreation. The Co-Commissioners must also resolve disputes in the interpretation of playing rules as they pertain to Local Rules of the Bristol Volleyball League.

8. MAINTAIN LEAGUE EQUIPMENT

The Co-Commissioners are responsible for the maintenance of all equipment owned by the Bristol Recreation Volleyball League.

A.3 DUTIES OF THE REFEREES

The League referees are paid officials of the Bristol Recreation Co-Ed Volleyball League. Referees are expected to enforce all adopted USA Volleyball rules of play, as well as those rules particular to the Bristol Recreation Co-Ed Volleyball League. In addition, referees are expected to provide instruction to players as to the proper methods and techniques of the sport of Volleyball as prescribed by USA Volleyball. Referees will be paid at the agreed upon fee for services as set at the annual Captains' meeting.

A.4 DUTIES OF THE TEAM CAPTAINS AND CO-CAPTAINS

The Team Captain is a position appointed by the League Co-Commissioners to a person deemed responsible in properly representing the individual team in the League. As such, the Captain serves at the pleasure of the Co-Commissioners and may be removed at the discretion of the Co-Commissioners.

The Team Captains are responsible for:

- a. Managing their team with respect to rotations,
- b. acting as team spokesperson and representative at league meetings,
- c. acting as sole team spokesperson and representative during official matches, and
- d. acting as team spokesperson and representative to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Participation by Captains in league meetings called by the Co-Commissioners are mandatory. If a Captain cannot attend a meeting they may designate a proxy to attend. Captains must notify the Co-Commissioners that they cannot attend, even if a proxy has been designated. If circumstances prevent the Captain or proxy from attending the Co-Commissioners must be notified at the earliest possible opportunity after the meeting.

If a Captain is no longer willing, unable, or deemed to be unable by the Co-Commissioners to fulfill the obligations and responsibilities of Captain, they must or may be asked to recommend a replacement to the Co-Commissioners.

The Team Co-Captain(s) are appointed by the Team Captain and act in the capacity of Team Captain in the absence of the Team Captain. The Co-Captain acts in those duties of the Team Captain as delegated by the Team Captain and approved by the League Co-Commissioners.

During a game the Captain may appoint an On-The-Court Captain to act as spokesperson to the referee/officials which will be designated by the Team Captain prior to the start of the match.

A.5 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

The Bristol Recreation Co-Ed Volleyball League is a Recreational League. It is not designed nor chartered to be a Tournament Style League. Players are encouraged to participate for the chance to play structured, recreational volleyball.

The league is designed as a recreational activity for adults 18 years of age and older who are no longer enrolled in High School. Proof of age may be required for admission into the league at the discretion of the Co-Commissioners(s). **Player(s) found in violation of this requirement will be terminated from league play and all games played by the ineligible Player(s) will be retroactively forfeited.**

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The Bristol Volleyball League recognizes the following USA Volleyball Skill Level definitions when establishing player eligibility:

Recreational: A "Recreational" player is a Beginner. A "Recreational" player should know the basics of volleyball, and may have played some volleyball before, but he/she is just beginning to bump, set, and spike.

B: A "B" player is still in the early learning stages of the game but knows the skills. A "B" player knows how to bump, set (a little), and spike. But a "B" player has a lot of practice yet to go to be able to do these skills consistently. A "B" player makes mistakes often.

BB: A "BB" player knows where to be on the court at all times when plays are developing. He/she knows where to be when the opponent is hitting. A "BB" player knows the footwork of and how to approach hitting effectively. A "BB" player knows how to run a 5-1, a 6-2, and needlessly, a 4-2.

A: An "A" player is somewhere between "BB" and "AA". They know all the skills extremely well but cannot always execute the super-high level plays extremely effectively all the time. "A" players can run combination plays in a basic way if passes are good. That includes slides, tandems, x's, crosses, and back-row hitting.

AA: Nearly Olympic. Or at least able to dig an Olympic Player's attack hit or able to once in a while put a ball down as a hitter against an Olympic Team.

The League is designed for players between the **Recreational** and **B** USA Volleyball Skill Levels.

These parameters are meant to insure the recreational level of play and maintain the safety of less skilled players. Since safety is the primary concern, only players who are rated below the **BB** Level shall be allowed to participate in the league.

SECTION B. TEAMS

B.1 NUMBER OF TEAMS

The number of teams in the Bristol Recreation Co-Ed Volleyball League is determined by access of playing facilities as well as schedule, time, and personnel restrictions.

One facility for the League is available per week on Monday Evenings between the approximate hours of 7:00 PM and 9:30 PM for a 2 hour and 30 minute window of time within those hours.

The requirement by the league officials is that each team play one match of three games per match per week. In order to facilitate this requirement the number of teams allowed is therefore limited to **4 (four) teams**.

B.2 RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Since the league falls under the jurisdiction of the Bristol Department of Parks and Recreation, the league shall give preference for admission into the league players who are residents of the Town of Bristol, RI.

Residency requirements shall be waived for those players who have played in the league for at least four years.

Residency requirements shall also be waived whenever there are not enough players/teams seeking admission.

Proof of residency must be given at registration for all new players entering the league and for players not subject to the 4-year dispensation.

B.3 TEAM ROSTERS

Teams are comprised of a pool of players drafted into the number of teams supported for the League as specified in Section B.1.

Teams are comprised of between 6 and 8 players on a roster. Additions/replacements to the Rosters will be made at the discretion of the League Co-Commissioners depending upon the availability of potential players. **Teams will be allowed to play with a minimum of 4 players regardless of gender, but only 4 male players will be allowed on the court for any game.**

In order for a player to meet playoff eligibility, they player must have actively participated in **50%** of the scheduled games during the course of the season. Paid injured reserve players are excluded, provided they have attended **50%** of the scheduled games to act as a ghost-substitute/server in the event of short-handed situations.

The league will reserve the right to re-admit any returning person from play for a season who has failed to meet attendance requirements for the previous season.

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B.5 FEES

Fees are collected to allow the League to operate, (i.e. purchase equipment, pay referee salaries, pay for facility usage, purchase awards, and supplement part of the banquet). The following rules govern the collection of fees so that the League may adequately function:

a. Player Fees

Player fees are collected starting the first week of the Regular Season. Player fees may be paid in installments. The first installment (representing 1/2 of the total cost for the year), is due on the second week of the Regular Season (as specified on the League Calendar). The final installment (the remainder of the total cost for the year) is due by the first week in January.

Any player not paying due dates will not be allowed to participate until payment is received. In the event of a player not being activated on or by the due date, the payment is due upon the third week of attendance. Any active player on the roster not playing or paying within four (4) weeks after their first week of play will be considered off the league roster and ineligible for play for the remainder of the season. Replacement of the ineligible player will be at the discretion of the League Co-Commissioners. Individual financial hardships will be governed on a case-by-case basis to allow for payment schedules.

Player Fees must be made payable to:

Bristol Volleyball League

NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN FOR PLAYER DUES UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.

In the event that fees are delinquent, the team/players will be required to pay their fees for the next season prior to the start of the following season. In the event that fees are delinquent by the end of the season, the players (of the team) will no longer be eligible for play in any Town of Bristol Dept. of Parks and Recreation activity until the debt has been satisfied.

The amount due for the Players Fee is set at the annual Captains' meeting.

c. Sponsorships

Teams may supplement the cost of player fees with a corporate/private sponsor. A sponsorship may not exceed one half of the total cost for an 8 player roster.

The Sponsor fee **must be made payable to:**

Bristol Recreation

Sponsorships will be accepted until the end of the season. Players will be reimbursed accordingly.

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SECTION C. LEAGUE RULES

C.1 GOVERNING RULES OF PLAY

The Bristol Recreation Co-Ed Volleyball League follows the general rules of play as specified by USA Indoor Volleyball Domestic Competition Regulations, as approved by USA Volleyball, 715 South Circle Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80910 (www.USAVolleyball.org). Certain rules have been amended or ignored to accommodate the conditions of the Bristol Recreation Co-Ed Volleyball League.

C.2 STARTING TIMES FOR MATCHES

In order to effectively guarantee that each team has a reasonable time to complete a three game match the following rules have been established for starting times for each match:

- a. First match: 7:00 PM – Coin Toss
7:10 PM - Forfeit 1stGame
7:20 PM – Forfeit 2nd Game
7:30 PM - Forfeit 3rd Game.
- b. Second match: 8:00 PM – Coin Toss
8:10 PM - Forfeit 1stGame
8:20 PM – Forfeit 2nd Game
8:30 PM - Forfeit 3rd Game.

Starting times and forfeits will be controlled and enforced by the Referee for the match. Teams will be allowed a 2-minute rest period between games and teams will be allowed a 5 minute warm-up before start if a match ends after the scheduled start of the next match.

Each match shall be governed by a 50-minute completion time limit maintained by the referee.

A delayed start of the match due to equipment failures or official delays will not alter the 50 minute completion time.

Scorekeepers will record starting time of the match as provided by the primary referee. The WALL CLOCK (if present) in the Gym will provide the Official Time. In the event the WALL CLOCK is not functioning, the Captains and referees will agree upon a synchronized official time.

The first teams playing are responsible for equipment setup. It is the Captain's responsibility to have at least 2 players at the gym at 6:45 PM for equipment setup. If the nets and scoring equipment for the court in which the affected teams are playing are not set-up by Forfeit times, both teams will register the appropriate forfeits. (This rule will be waived if the nets are not set up in time due to equipment failure.) The last teams playing are responsible for equipment breakdown.

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C.3 SPECIAL BRISTOL RECREATION RULES OF PLAY

The following rules apply as local rules for Bristol Recreation Co-Ed Volleyball, other rules may be established due to particular circumstances.

General Rules Governing Play:

- a. USA Volleyball Rules for Co-Ed and Reverse Co-Ed are ignored. There is no special consideration for the one-hit rule by a gender minority player.
- b. Each match will consist of three (3) Rally 25-Point games; each game will count as a win/loss towards to overall standings. **The scoring cap is 25 – there is no win-by-2 provision.**
 - i. During playoff matches, each match will consist of the best two out of three (3) Rally 25-Point games; each game will count as a win/loss.
 - ii. During the playoff matches and on the last night of playoff games, in the event time is an issue, the last match of the evening may be shorted at the discretion of the Co-Commissioners to 21 point matches.
- c. The following rules as amended from the NFHS Volleyball Rules supersede USA Volleyball Rules:
 - iii. A re-serve shall be called when the server releases the ball for service, then allows the ball to drop to the floor. The referee shall cancel the serve and direct a second and last attempt at serve. The server is allowed a new eight seconds for the re-serve.
 - iv. A player may touch the floor across the center line with one foot/hand provided a part of the foot or hand remains on or above the center line. Contacting the floor across the center line with any other part of the body is illegal.
 - v. A net fault occurs while the ball is in play and a player contacts any part of the net including net cables or net antennas. It is not a fault when a player's loose hair touches the net, or the force of a ball hit by an opponent pushes the net or net cables into the player.

Player Rotation and Substitutions:

- d. Player positions and rotation order are established as signal for first service is initiated. A delay in lining up is sanctioned as a team delay warning (captain should immediately call a time-out to correct player position).
- e. Automatic substitutions will be allowed only into the service and left-front position. Players rotating in and out will be expected to maintain rotational integrity. A missing position can be filled while the ball is out of play and a request is made to the referee. When a team has less than six (6) players on the court, new players will be allowed to enter into the back row service position only. If two players are entering simultaneously, they must enter into the back row service and middle back positions. (*Note: Captain's may wait to enter new players singularly into the service position during the game to maintain operational rotation.*)
- f. In the event a team must play with four players, the service position is a mandatory back row position.
- g. A Captain may not intentionally alter their playing roster down to six players by soliciting any of their team players to voluntarily sit out a game or match.

Work Teams:

- h. The Work Team shall provide a Down-Referee. Responsibilities are directed to net (into and under), center line, and rotation/overlap violations. The down referee may be consulted on line, "touch", and ceiling faults. They are not permitted to make calls pertaining to ball-handling faults.
- i. Each Captain is responsible to ensure a whistle is provided for the designated Down Referee.

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- j. The Work Team shall provide 2 Line-Judges. Line-Judges are responsible for calling line and service foot faults only. Line judges must be in the proper designated position and remain attentive during the game. ***Distractions including use of electronic devices and extended conversations are prohibited and may result in game suspension(s).***
- k. The Work Team shall provide at least one Score Keeper. Score Keeper(s) are responsible for maintaining the proper accurate score on the score-sheet and the scoreboard. Score Keeper(s) must also record time-outs, penalties, starting times, and ending times.
- l. Captains shall maintain a work rotation schedule for their team to ensure all team members share in the work responsibilities equally. ***Captains reserve the right to levy game suspension(s) for not participating in work team duties. The League reserves the right to not invite back players who habitually avoid work team duties.***
- m. Points shall be added to the score after making eye contact with the referee.

Proper Attire:

- n. All participating players require proper footwear.
- o. From “***2016-2017 Domestic Competition Regulations as Presented by USA Volleyball***”:

4.5 FORBIDDEN OBJECTS

4.5.1 It is forbidden to wear objects which may cause injury, or give an artificial advantage to the player.

USAV 4.5.1: It is forbidden to wear hats or casts (even if padded). Braces, jewelry, prosthetic limbs or other headgear that may cause an injury or give an artificial advantage to the player must not be worn. If a brace, prosthetic limb or headgear is used, padding or covering may be necessary. An exception will be made for religious or medical medallions that are removed from chains and taped or sewn under the uniform.

4.5.2 Players may wear glasses or lenses at their own risk.

USAV 4.5.2: If a player's equipment falls to the floor and creates a safety hazard, play is stopped and a delay sanction assessed

4.5.3 Compression pads (padded injury protection devices) may be worn for protection or support.

Miscellaneous:

- a. Unless team captains appoint a game captain they will remain the game captain while subbed out of the game.
- b. A maximum of four male players are allowed to play an official game. There is no maximum for female players.
- c. Illegal Ball Contact:
 - 1. Contacting the ball below the waist.
 - 2. Two hands not interlocked (except blocking and overhand passing).
 - 3. Single open-hand contact (except tipping and hitting).
 - 4. Balls not hit with palm but thrown with an open hand.
 - 5. Misdirecting the ball.
 - 6. Throwing the ball.

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- 7. Lifting the ball.
- d. The entire gym floor is a playable surface.

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C.4 FORFEITS

The following rules govern Team Forfeits; forfeits may be appealed to the Bristol Department of Parks and Recreation at the regular scheduled meeting following the imposed forfeit.

- a. The minimum-playing requirement is four team members with a maximum of 4 male players (in the event that there are no female players for the game, the team may play with 4 male players only).
- b. **One (1) Scorer, Two (2) Line Officials, and One (1) Lower Official** must be provided for alternate matches or forfeiture of the next match. The Lower Official shall be limited to no more than two designated players from the roster, which have been approved by the league officials and a majority of the team captains. **A Work teams minimum complement of workers (4 people) will be imposed a 5 Point Deficit for their next scheduled regular season or playoff game.**

A Captain with less than four players may concede a match forfeit prior to the official time expiration.

Teams are allowed 30 minutes of court time following a forfeited match.

C.5 CONDUCT

The following rules govern Player Conduct:

- Un-sportsman-like conduct by a player (i.e. abuse to league/school department equipment, referees, opposing players, the use of extreme profanity, or a player other than the acting captain **arguing** a call by the referee) will result in the following action by the referee:

1st offense in a game:	Yellow Card – Warning
2nd offense in a game:	Red Card - Side out/loss of point for team and Ejection from the game.
3rd offense in a match:	Side out/loss of point for team and Ejection from the match.
- The use of league equipment is for volleyball only. Any player using volleyball for basketball will be dismissed for the evening and potentially fined \$50 for the cost of the volleyball. In the event a non-league member is abusing the equipment, the non-league member will be banned from attending for the remainder of the year, failure to comply will result in a one game suspension of the player accompanying the non-league member.
- Un-sportsmanlike conduct or inappropriate behavior (i.e. behavior deemed to be offensive or inappropriate by a reasonable person) on the part of any player or team while not currently playing (i.e. watching or officiating a match) including but not limited to, heckling of actively playing players, officials, or work-teams; actively and knowingly boycotting a match, game, or session; and not fulfilling obligations as a work team or setup team (without prior approval by a league official) will result in a one game suspension of the player or team. **Un-sportsmanlike conduct or inappropriate behavior may result in a player not being invited back to play in subsequent seasons at the League's (Co-Commissioner's) discretion.**

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C.6 DISCIPLINE

It is the intent and expectation of the Town of Bristol Department of Parks and Recreation that all procedures are to be followed by all participants of this league. If a player or team does not follow the By-Laws and Rules governing this activity the player or team will:

1. (First Infraction of any By-Law or Ejection/Suspension) Receive a Verbal Warning.
2. (Second Infraction of any By-Law or Ejection/Suspension) Receive a Written Warning with a copy forwarded to the Town of Bristol Department of Parks and Recreation.
3. (Third Infraction of any By-Law or Ejection/Suspension) The Player or Team will be subject to dismissal.

Ejections and suspensions are not considered offenses to the Department of Parks and Recreation that are subject to appeal. Any dismissal from the league may be appealed to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

C.7 CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations due to inclement weather will be made at the discretion of the League Co-Commissioners. Up to four (4) cancelled dates will be rescheduled after the last scheduled regular season week. As a matter of convenience, cancellations will occur whenever the Bristol/Warren Regional School Department cancels schools or dismisses schools early due to inclement weather.

In the event that a cancellation is required after schools have been normally dismissed or as a result of unforeseen circumstances at the Community Center, every effort will be made to send email to the league and update the Web Page. If this cannot occur, the Captains will be notified and be responsible for informing individual team members of cancellations.