



# Grove City Parks and Recreation

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## YOUTH VOLLEYBALL RULES

### I. General Personal Conduct Rules/Ejections

Grove City Parks and Recreation (GCPR) has a ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY that includes, but is not limited to, the following: fighting, physical contact, aggressive behavior towards coaches, fans, parents, players or other participants, belittlement of coaches, fans, parents, players or other participants and violations of substitution rules. This type of behavior could result in an indefinite suspension to a lifetime ban from Grove City Parks and Recreation activities.

- A. If a coach, fan, parent, player or other participant is ejected from a GCPR practice or game for ANY reason, that individual must leave the facility immediately, is suspended, and is not permitted at any future practices or games until the Recreation Supervisor or designee has reviewed the incident. The individual ejected, potential witnesses and the official(s) must submit an incident report form explaining the situation that resulted in the ejection. Based upon the information provided, the suspension may result in a minimum of a one-contest suspension up to a permanent removal from all future league activities conducted by GCPR.
- B. If an individual is ejected from two separate contests, that individual is immediately removed from the league without a refund and is not permitted at any facility for games for the remainder of the season.
- C. Unsportsmanlike conduct is not tolerated from coaches, fans, parents, players or other participants. Offenders will be ejected. Chattering or yelling at players is not tolerated.
- D. Coaches, fans, parents, players or other participants are not to question the officials. If there are any questions concerning rule interpretations or their application, the head coach only may approach the official.
- E. The Grove City youth volleyball program conducts practices and games on South-Western City School District property, therefore SWCSD students who are under suspension from school are not permitted to participate in GCPR activities at a SWCSD site through the duration of that suspension.

### II. League Structure

GCPR youth volleyball program consists of five leagues based on the grade the participant is assigned for the school year in which the season is played. GCPR reserves the right to realign leagues to accommodate participation numbers.

- A. Junior division: grades 3 and 4
- B. Intermediate division: grades 5 and 6
- C. Middle division: grades 7 and 8
- D. Senior division: grades 9 through 12

### III. General Rules

Volleyball rules are governed by the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) unless otherwise specified.

- A. Participation Requirements: The league is open to all boys and girls in grades three through 12.
- B. Mandatory Play: GCPR enlists a mandatory play rule.
  1. Each player must play a minimum of two (2) full games.  
Example: If a front row player is substituted by player B, then for one game both players must play the entire game.
  2. If a player is substituted for, it equals one half game played.
  3. Rosters are generally eight (8) players with a maximum of nine (9) players.

### C. Game Time and Forfeits

1. There is NO GRACE PERIOD for the first game of the match. All teams are urged to be at the game site at least 15 minutes early.
2. In case of a first-game forfeiture, the second game of the match is scheduled to start 15 minutes after the first game. If the second game of the match is not played as scheduled, the third game also becomes a forfeit.
3. Junior and Intermediate Divisions: at least four (4) players must be on the court at game time in order to compete.
4. Middle and High School Division: At least three (3) players must be on the court at game time in order to compete.

### D. Matches: A match consists of three (3) games.

1. Junior/Intermediate Division: a match consists of the first two games played to 25 and the third game played to 15 in a rally scoring format. Teams must win by two with a 30 point cap the first two games and a 20 point cap in the third game.
2. Middle/Senior Division: a match consists of three games to 25 in a rally scoring format. Teams must win by two with a 30 point cap.

### E. Timeout: a teams is allowed one (1) timeout of a one-minute duration per game.

### F. Serving:

1. Participants must serve behind the end line with the following exceptions:
  - a. Junior: may extend serving area to the 10-foot line.
  - b. Intermediate: fifth graders may extend their serving area a maximum of five (5) feet.
2. Junior Division: when receiving serve, a player must pass the ball with an underhand bump.
3. Serving Limitations: there is a limit of five (5) points per server in each division. After five (5) points have been reached, that team rotates and continues to serve.

## IV. Substitutions and Player Rotation

- A. Recordings of score and substitutions: all score sheets and substitutions are checked daily. Please be sure to record all substitutions correctly.
- B. A sub enters to serve after each rotation into the right back position. Therefore, any player not presently in the game will sit out a maximum of three (3) rotations at one time.
- C. Teams must start each game with the same lineup with which they finished the previous game.
- D. If a team is not serving, a rotation must be completed when it is that team's turn to serve. This includes the team's first service of the game.

## V. Disputes/Protests

- A. The only protests reviewed by the Parks and Recreation office/recreation supervisor assigned to sports concern the eligibility of players.
- B. All other disputes must be settled on the court with the official in charge.

## VI. Coaching Responsibilities

- A. Only approved coaches with an application on file for the current season with GCPR are permitted on the court during games or assisting in the gymnasium for practices. There are NO EXCEPTIONS.
- B. Coaches shall abide by the provisions of the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA).
- C. Coaches must complete required training required by Ohio law, including those regarding Lindsay's Law regarding sudden cardiac arrest in young athletes and Ohio's Return-to-Play Law regarding youth concussions; visit [www.ODH.Ohio.gov](http://www.ODH.Ohio.gov).
- D. Coaches are responsible for keeping players and their parents informed at all times.

- E. For each match, the coach must enlist one (1) volunteer to serve as a line judge each game and another volunteer to keep score (if home team) or work the time clock (if visitor).
- F. Coaches must have in his/her possession, a completed Grove City Youth Volleyball application for each team member at all practices and games.
- G. Coaches are responsible for making sure that uniforms including coaches' shirts are not modified including, but not limited to, cutoff sleeves or added patches, names or decals.
- H. Coaches shall not use any tobacco product or use or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances before or during practices or games.
- I. Coaches shall not use profanity or engage in verbal or physical abuse or unsportsmanlike conduct including abuse of equipment. Any occurrence results in immediate ejection from the game per section I.
- J. Any coach playing a player not on the official team roster will forfeit all games said player participated in **AND** the coach will be suspended for the remainder of the season. If this occurs during a tournament game, both the coach and the team will be removed from the tournament and their season will end.
- K. Coaches are responsible for other duties assigned by GCPR.
- L. Any coach caught violating a league rule, regardless of the reason, will be suspended as outlined in the EJECTIONS rule (see Section I.).

## **VII. Practice/Scrimmages**

- A. GCPR shall establish all practice and game schedules.
- B. The only practices sanctioned are those scheduled by GCPR.
- C. Coaches are not permitted to practice outside your scheduled practice time. Violation of this rule may result in suspension.

## **VIII. Treatment of an Injured Player**

- A. In the event of an injury to a player, the primary concern of all coaches is the proper treatment of said player. Other team members and opponent should be instructed to clear the area around the injured player.
- B. In the event an injured player must be taken to the hospital or doctor's office, a parent, guardian or other authorized adult must accompany the player.
- C. An incident report must be completed and submitted to the recreation supervisor within 24 hours.

## **IX. Field of Play Conduct Rules**

Experience has proven that it is impossible to anticipate all problems or concerns when rules are formulated and adopted. Therefore, GCPR reserves the right to modify any rule governing play in any league under the jurisdiction of GCPR when the application of said rule will result in gross unfairness or unreasonable hardship. This application is made in the best judgment of GCPR representatives and is final.

## **X. Awards**

- A. GCPR provides awards of participation for all youth volleyball participants.
- B. To ensure an equitable experience for all participants, no coach, parent or player shall issue any awards, irrespective of cost, other than those approved. Any person found to issue such unauthorized awards is subject to suspension from participation in any program sponsored by GCPR for a period of one (1) year.