

# BIG LEAGUE VOLLEYBALL RULES

These rules are still under review and may be revised for, but not limited to purposes of clarity, fair-play, or improvement of the competition.

UPDATED 2/8/16

**Big League Sports is a SOCIAL co-ed sports league first and foremost.**

Big League Volleyball uses the standard indoor Volleyball Rules. At the end of the day, these calls will be made by the head referee. Whatever their call is, it stands. Please do not put BLV in a compromising position where a game has to be forfeited due to an illegal player. BLV provides itself in promoting a league based on sportsmanship and integrity. If teams cannot abide by the rules set forth by BLV, then those teams should not participate in our league. **BLV has a ZERO tolerance policy towards any unsportsmanlike conduct.**

STATE LAWS – ALCOHOL IS PROHIBITED AT ALL BLV VOLLEYBALL GYMS.

ALL PLAYERS MUST SIGN A WAIVER TO PLAY.

NO PETS ALLOWED AT THE BLV ATHLETIC FACILITIES.

## I. GENERAL

### 1. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- a. All players must sign a waiver to play
- b. All players must be 18 years of age or older.

### 2. ROSTERS

- a. A full roster consists of a minimum of 10 players and a maximum of 15.
- b. Teams may have a maximum of 6 players on a court at once, a maximum of 4 males are allowed on the court at anytime. Teams must play with a minimum of 4 players on the court and one of them must be a female. Teams with less than 4 players will forfeit.
- c. Players may only play on the team to which they're registered
- d. BLV reserves the right to add players to teams to make sure that all teams have a balance in numbers.
- e. Players may not be added to a team roster after week 4 of a season unless authorized by the League President, Maurice Reep.

### 3. CAPTAINS

- a. Each team shall have one or two Captains who are charged with making sure that only players registered on their team are participating on their behalf in a game. Any team playing with an unregistered player is subject to forfeiting that game and expulsion from the league. No substitutes.
- b. Only captains may dispute a call on the court and should remain cool at all times.
- c. Captains must make sure everyone on their team understands the rules.
- d. Captains must stay in contact with BLV and attend any required league meetings, communicating any changes in regards to scheduling or rules with his/her team.
- e. Captains must make sure that all trash is cleaned up after your team after each session.

### 4. UNIFORMS

- a. BLV will provide team t-shirts to all teams. Players must wear their matching t-shirts during all games. Shirts should arrive on week 2 of each unless there is an unforeseen problem. Shirts sizes and colors are not guaranteed based on availability.
- b. Teams are encouraged to be creative with names and customized t-shirts.

- c. A player who registers after the registration deadline may not get a shirt.
- 5. COURT
  - a. No player may have a foot entirely over the centerline at any point. A foot on the line is legal
- 6. EQUIPMENT
  - a. All game equipment will be provided on site.
  - b. Athletic shoes are required.
- 7. SCHEDULES/STANDINGS/CANCELLATIONS
  - a. Schedules and standings are updated weekly and are posted on the Official BLV website: [www.bigleaguevball.com](http://www.bigleaguevball.com)
  - b. Cancellations of games and events are posted immediately on the Official BLV website: [www.bigleaguevball.com](http://www.bigleaguevball.com)
  - c. Captains also receive updated schedules and standings via e-mail.
- 8. HEAD REFEREE
  - a. The BLV head referee will have a copy of the rules at the gym. Only captains can discuss a rule with the referee and no judgment calls will be discussed.
  - b. Any rules issues not resolved at the gym cannot be overturned once teams have left the gym.
- 9. REFEREES
  - a. BLV will provide a head referee for all divisions.
- 10. PLAYOFFS
  - a. Playoff formats are determined based on the competitive breakdown of the league, and are often split into separate competitive and social brackets.

## II. SPORTSMANSHIP

- 1. NO WHINING
  - a. The first and foremost rule of the game is to have fun. If you are hoping to recapture your athletic glories from the past, this is not the league for you. Absolutely no whining will be tolerated during the course of a game.
  - b. The only players allowed to communicate with the referees are the captain and co-captain.
  - c. Any abuse, verbal or otherwise, of the referees or other players will constitute an immediate ejection from the game.
  - d. Repeat offenders will be banned from the league. No exceptions.
- 2. CONTACT
  - a. Players should have no intentional physical contact with opposing players.
  - b. Threats of physical violence are in no way allowed. Doing so will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and it will be at the discretion of the referee to issue warnings or eject offending players.
  - c. A player should make the referee aware if he or she feels any contact was unwarranted.
- 3. TRASH TALKING
  - a. Permitted, as long as it is not cruel, racially motivated, hateful, or a personal attack on another player.
  - b. The trash talking should only be good-natured and shall not be allowed to get out of hand.
- 4. ALCOHOL
  - a. Due to NY, CT, and PA regulations, consumption of alcohol on the premises is strictly prohibited.

- b. If a person is seen consuming alcohol on the premises, that person's team immediately forfeits that day's game and may be removed from the league at the discretion of BLV.

#### 5. FORFEITS

- a. Captains must contact the other team and the league in the event of a forfeit by 9:00am.
- b. Any team that forfeits three or more matches will be removed from the remaining schedule and not be allowed to participate in any playoff situations. No refunds will be given and a team dropped by the league may, at BLV's discretion, not be allowed to rejoin the next season.
- c. Forfeits are scored 25-0

#### 6. DISCIPLINE

- a. Players may be ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct at the discretion of the head referee.
- b. BLV reserves the right to suspend any player at any time for unsportsmanlike conduct, violation of any rules, for failure to pay appropriate dues, or for being a general pain in the ass, without any refund whatsoever.
- c. Any team wishing to suspend any member for just reasons must do so on their own and provide BLV a written reason as to why. Again, no refunds.
- d. At the discretion of BLV, any member suspended may not in the future be allowed to participate in any further BLV events

### III. BEGINNING THE GAME/SERVING

- a. Service of the first game will be determined by rock-paper-scissors. The team that did not begin serving the first game will begin serving the second game. The winner of the second game will begin serving the third game.
- b. Service may be either underhand or overhand with either a closed or open hand.
- c. If a player catches a bad toss, the serve shall be replayed.
- d. A served ball must pass over the net (and can hit the net) as long as it lands within the out-of-bounds lines.
- e. A served ball may not be blocked or attacked by the receiving team.

### IV. PLAYING THE GAME

- 1. 3 Games per night. Each game is recorded separately in the standings towards your overall season record. *Different Scoring Systems can and will be used if there are time restrictions.*
- 2. A regular match consists of 3 games played to 25 points or 45 minutes, whichever comes first.
- 3. BLV uses rally scoring. A point is awarded for each side-out, regardless of which team served. Teams must win by 2 points or first to 27.
- 4. When a team is awarded the serve, the team, will rotate one place clockwise.
- 5. A ball hit into the net, other than a serve, may be recovered provided a player does not make contact with the net or cross the centerline.
- 6. A player may not play the ball twice in succession unless the initial contact is a block.
- 7. A team must return the ball across the net with three or fewer contacts. A block does not count as contact.
- 8. When the ball lands on the boundary line, it is considered in the court. It is legal for a player to run out of bounds and play the ball; however, a player may not enter another Volleyball court to play the ball.

9. Any ball that makes contact with the backboards or ceiling fixtures on the opponent's side before crossing the net will be considered out of play and a point or side-out should be awarded. However, a ball can be played off of the back board or ceiling if it is still on the same team's side.

## **V. FOULS/VIOLATIONS**

If a foul is committed, the opposing team will receive a point and service.

1. Contacting the ball in an underhand motion with open hand or hands (slapping or scooping).
2. Failure to return ball over the net in three or fewer contacts.
3. Serving illegally, or out of turn.
4. Touching the net or reaching under the net to interfere with an opponent playing the ball.
5. Stepping over the centerline into the opponent's court, a player may step on the line.
6. Spiking or blocking the ball in front of the 10' line when playing the back row position.
7. Contacting the ball twice in succession, unless the first contact is a block.
8. Catching or holding the ball while playing it.

### **Rule Revisions -**

**2/24/14 - IV.2 - Rule Added**