Boulder Parks & Recreation Department
Official Adult Volleyball Rules

Objectives and Purposes

The objectives and purposes of the Boulder Parks and Recreation Department adult athletic leagues shall be: to foster, develop, promote and regulate amateur athletics within the City of Boulder area; to establish rules and regulations governing all teams participating; to engage in any activity that will be beneficial to the participants' and the leagues' well-being; and to extend the sports listed herein as wholesome recreational activities.

General Policy Statement

The Boulder Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to change any and all rules, regulations, and policies whenever due cause warrants a change. When a change is made, all managers of teams affected by such a change will be notified immediately.

1. **Registration**

   A. **Rosters –** Each player must sign the City of Boulder roster before they can participate in any league.
      1. Players must sign a roster for each team they play on
      2. Rosters will be collected by the officials during the first week of games.
      3. Players can be added to a team roster at any time (besides week of championships) by contacting the game official. Rosters will be kept on file at the gym.
      4. Players are considered illegal if they have not signed the team roster.

   B. No entry fees will be refunded after the registration deadline.

   C. Any team being suspended from the league will not receive a refund.

   D. **Competitive Parity –** The Program Coordinator has the right to place teams appropriately to preserve competitive parity. Teams that win their league with 0 or 1 loss MUST move up a division the following season. This move may only be waived if the roster changes by 2 or more players.

2. Eligibility

A. **Player Age –** Participants must be at least 16 years of age in order to play in the adult leagues.
B. **Roster/Managers Responsibility –** All players must sign the roster to be eligible. Players from another team may sub within the same division, but a D1 player may not sub for a D2 team. Managers are responsible for rosters and the correct and complete information on them.
C. **Roster Changes –** Team rosters are kept on file with the officials. Players may be added to the team roster 5 minutes before the game. No roster additions accepted during championship week.

D. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct –** In cases of unsportsmanlike conduct the following steps will be taken by the official:
   1. Warning
   2. Yellow Card
   3. Red Card

   Any player or coach who is ejected from a game is automatically ineligible for the team's next game.

3. Postponements, Forfeits, and Protests

A. **Adverse Weather –** Games will not be canceled unless the recreation centers are closed. Call the weather line @ (303) 441-3410. We will update this line as soon as a final decision is made.
B. **Forfeits –** Teams that needs to forfeit must contact the Program Coordinator by 4:00 pm or face a $25.00 fine. A team with three forfeits during a season will be dropped from the league, and their opponents' remaining games will be rescheduled. **Forfeiting the first game still warrants the $25.00 fine**. If a team does not have enough players at the time their game is to begin it is considered a forfeit. The second game will begin 20 minutes after the scheduled time, and the 3rd will begin 40 minutes after the scheduled time.
C. **Protest –** A protest will be ruled upon by the Rules Committee when it concerns player eligibility or rules interpretation. Protests involving referees' decisions (judgment) will not be considered. All protests involving rule interpretations must be submitted to the Program Coordinator within 24 hours. The official must be informed that the game is under protest before the ball is put into play.
D. **Disputes With Referee –** If a dispute occurs, the referee will talk to the team captain only. All others must retire from the immediate vicinity. Anyone violating this rule will be ejected from the game.

4. Games

All games will be played under current **USAV Rules** except for changes and additions noted in the City of Boulder Rules.

City of Boulder Rules

A. **Start And End Time** – Games will start at 5 minutes after the hour (6:05, 7:05, etc). Teams will have from the top of the hour until 5 minutes after the hour to warm up. All games will end at the top of the hour (7:00, 8:00, etc). If teams have not finished their 3rd game, the score at the top of the hour is the final score.

B. **Scoring** – Rally scoring will be utilized. In the rally score system, a point will be awarded on either service or side out; teams receiving service may score in this system. A game is won by the team which first scores 21 points with a minimum point lead of two points or when the cap of 25 points is reached. The 3rd game is played to 21 points with a cap of 25 points or to as many points possible till time runs out on the hour.

C. **Ghost Player** - Teams may play with as few as 4 players. One ghost player will be enforced, the team short loses 1 point and looses the ball on a side-out when the ghost rotates back to serve.– exception; if both teams are short the same amount of players the ghost position is ignored.

    1. When playing with 5 players, there will always be 3 positions in the front row. With 4 players, the server is the only back row player.

D. **First Serve** – A flip of the coin will occur on the hour. The winning team of the coin toss chooses serve, side, or receive. For the 2nd game the opposing team will serve first and another flip of the coin will determine the first server of the 3rd game.

E. **Uniforms** – Players are encouraged to wear numbers on the front of their shirts. No duplicate numbers on a team. Like-colored shirts are encouraged. If a libero is used, they <u>must</u> wear a different colored shirt than the rest of the team.

    1. No hats are to be worn during matches

F. **Substitutions** – Each team is allowed 12 subs maximum each match. You can make a sub whenever the ball is not in play.

G. **Time Outs** – Each team is allowed 2 timeouts per game. However, in the 3rd game you cannot use a timeout within the last 5 minutes of play. Since our games have a time limit this rule is to be enforced so teams do not stall at the end of the match.

H. **Coed Rule Difference** –

    1. If a ball is contacted more than twice by a team, one contact must be made by a woman.
    2. A man may come from the back row to block, provided there is only one man positioned in the front row at that time.

I. **Successive Contacts** – A player may have successive contacts of the ball during blocking and during a single attempt to make the first team hit of a ball coming from the opponents, even if the ball is blocked, provided the ball is not held or thrown. Any other player contacting the ball more than once, with any part of the body, without an intervening contact by another player, will be considered to have committed a fault. Which results in a side out and point awarded to the opposing team.

J. **Special Ground Rules** –

1. **East Boulder Recreation Center:** touching the curtain is a fault, even after playing the ball; the basketball goals and supports are attached to, and thus are part of, the wall; the ventilation tubes are part of the wall, except that the square portion is low enough – less than 15 feet – that a replay may be granted if contact prevents a player, who was in position, from playing the ball.
2. **North Boulder Recreation Center:** since overhanging objects (goals, supports, speakers) are within 6 feet of the court, a replay may be granted if contact prevents a player, who was in position, from playing the ball – the overhead pipes and beams are part of the ceiling, so the ball must actually contact a wall to be considered "out" – servers may contact the end line, but may not completely cross it.

5. Officials and Officials Authority

A. Officials, as chosen by the Parks and Recreation Department, shall have full authority over the game.

B. Officials have authority to recommend suspension of players to the Parks and Recreation Department.

6. Player Conduct

A. **Manager Responsibility** – Managers of the teams shall be responsible for the conduct of their players and the spectators in the stands favoring their teams.

B. Any player ejected for any reason may be suspended or ejected out of the league. This includes any incident before, during, or after games. The end of a game will not protect players or coaches from discipline and penalties. Ejected players must leave the playing facility immediately.

C. It is the responsibility of the manager to make sure all players have a copy of these rules and code of conduct.

7. Tie Breaker

A. If a tie occurs at the end of the regular season the following tie break order will occur:

1. Winning Percentage
2. Head-To-Group
3. Head-To-Group Differential
4. Common Opponents
5. Coin Toss

8. **Miscellaneous**

   A. **Food or Drink** – No food or drinks besides water are allowed in the gym at any time
   B. **Children** – Children who accompany participating parents as spectators must remain seated in the spectator area. Children who run around unattended are a safety hazard to the players as well as themselves. They may be asked to leave.

City of Boulder Player Code of Conduct

Definitions
Manager - A person designated as the team spokesperson. One who is either a player or non-player
Player - A person who actively participates in the game, whether it is playing or sitting on the bench, and who is on the roster.
Spectator - A person who comes out to watch the games for entertainment with no physical involvement.
Official - A person on the field to administer the official rules.
Participation - Any involvement in the Boulder Parks and Recreation Department activities such as spectating, officiating, playing, coaching, registering for classes, or attending non-sporting events.
Recreation Activity - Any class or event sponsored by the Boulder Parks and Recreation Department.
Program Coordinator - The full-time Parks and Recreation employee designated to organize and supervise the activity.

No player shall:
* At any time lay a hand upon, shove, strike, or threaten an official, player, or spectator.
* Refuse to abide by an official's decision.
* Be guilty of obscene gestures, objectionable demonstrations, or dissent of an official's decision.
* Be guilty of using unnecessarily rough tactics in the play of the game against the body and person of an opposing player.
* Be guilty of physical attack as an aggressor on any player, official, or spectator.
* Be guilty of using foul language (swearing) or abusive verbal attack upon any player, official, or spectator.
* Appear on the field under the influence of alcohol to the extent that he/she is inclined to cause harm to him/herself or another player.
* Misuse or destroy City of Boulder property or facilities.

Officials are required to suspend the player immediately from further play and report the player to the
Program Coordinator.
Minimum Penalty: Removal from the game, suspension from the team's next game and placed on probation for the remainder of the season.
Maximum Penalty: Suspension from all City of Boulder recreational activities for life. Case is subject to review the following year. Police involvement.

No player shall:
* Discuss with an official in any manner the decisions reached by an official. Exception: The manager may confer with the official(s) in a reasonable and civil manner.
* Smoke while coming off or going onto the field of play in any recreation facility.
Minimum Penalty: Warning by the official.
Maximum Penalty: Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and probation for the following year. Case is subject to review the following year. Police involvement.

1. Any player being placed on probation for the remainder of the season and reported again for the violation of Code of Conduct will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

2. Any player removed from a game must leave the field, court, or facility immediately. This includes any and all city property and any other property used by the City of Boulder for programs. Failure to do so will carry a maximum penalty of suspension for the remainder of the season.

3. Any person on probation who violates the Code of Conduct will be placed on suspension until the case can be heard by the Sports Dept staff.

4. Any person wishing to appeal a decision reached by the Sports Dept. staff should do so by calling the department at 303-441-3416 within 72 hours of the sports staff decision.

5. Any ejected player must pay appropriate fine and sit out the designated number of games prior to playing again.

No Official Present Rule:

In the event that an official fails to be present and the two teams wish to play:

1. The field supervisor must be notified.
2. The absent official form must be signed by both team managers and the field supervisor.
3. At the game's end the form must be given to the facility supervisor.
4. The scores will then be entered into the official record.

In the even that an official fails to be present and the two teams do not wish to play, a make up game will be scheduled at Program Coordinator's discretion.

Failure to comply will result in suspension of playing, per Program Coordinator's decision.

3/19/12