

RULE XI – YOUTH AND ADULT VOLLEYBALL

ARTICLE I – ELIGIBILITY

1. Age Control Date: on September 1, current year
2. There are eighteen divisions of play. Participant must be 6 years old by the age control date.
The divisions are:

<u>YOUTH</u>	<u>ADULT</u>
8 & Under Girls/Boys/Coed	Women
10 & Under Girls/Boys/Coed	Men
12 & Under Girls/Boys/Coed	Coed
14 & Under Girls/Boys/Coed	
17 & Under Girls/Boys/Coed	

3. For all team sports allow within district lines for individuals to compete in the nearest or adjoin departments with the following restrictions:
 - a. Home County or Agency has no program.
 - b. Cannot cross district lines.
 - c. Cannot pass over a program to participate in another agency.
 - d. Must participate in the sport program in the host agency.
 - e. Host agency must endorse participant.
 - f. Participant must be approved by District Athletic Chair. Once approved, they are legal throughout District and State.
 - g. Host agency must notify the District Athletic Chair with list and Home County of each crossover participant. The district must forward info to the State Host and Athletic Chair.
4. Youth coaches must be certified by one of the following programs: NYSCA, USAV, or GHSA.
5. A participant is allowed to compete in either women's or men's divisions in addition to the co-ed division.
6. Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for the remainder of the current match.

ARTICLE II – REGULATIONS

SECTION A – GOVERNING RULES

1. The accepted guide for adult volleyball at all levels is governed by the current rules and regulations of the USVA, authorized by the International Volleyball Federation, with the exceptions as may be found in this manual is the accepted guide.
2. Per the “Return to Play Act of 2013”, effective January 1, 2014, all agencies are required to provide concussion education material to all youth participants and their parents. The verification of compliance to this law is affirmed by the signature of the agency director on the GRPA roster.
3. All head and assistant coaches that are coaching youth teams participating in all levels of GRPA

4. Athletics must have undergone a criminal background check through their Department. By signing the teams GRPA roster, the Department Director or their designee attests that this has taken place. Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms, or locker rooms. The use of audio or visual recording devices is not allowed in resolution of protested matters.

SECTION B – LENGTH OF GAMES

1. A regulation game will be twenty-five points; the final regulation game will be played to fifteen points, although a team must win by two in any set.
2. YOUTH
 - a. A youth match will consist of the best two out of three sets. The first two games are played to 25 with the third game being played to 15. Teams must win each game by two. If teams are tied after two games at 1-1 then a third game is played to 15; teams must still win the third game by two points.
 - b. Scores of forfeits will be records as 25-0 each game of match: Matches 2-0; Sets 25-0, 25-0
 - c. Warm-Up Session: Teams receive separate warm up play on the court for either 3 minutes or 5 minutes each. Team that has first service takes first turn on court.
3. ADULT
 - a. An adult match will consist of the best three out of five sets. The first four games are played to 25 with the fifth game being played to 15. Teams must win each game by two. If teams are tied after four games at 2-2 then a fifth game is played to 15; teams must still win the fifth game by two points.
 - b. Scores of forfeits will be records as 25-0 each game of match: Matches 3-0; Sets 25-0, 25-0, 25-0
 - c. Warm-Up Session: Teams receive separate warm up play on the court for 5 minutes each. Team that has first service takes first turn on court.

SECTION C – SPECIAL PROVISIONS

There is no mandatory participation requirement for any GRPA sport.

1. No game in State Tournament can start before 7:00 PM on weeknights.
2. A team must have six (6) players to start a game. They may continue with (5) as long as the player leaves for any other reason than ejection.
3. A coin toss will determine the choice of team area or the service. The winner of the toss choose either playing area or the right to serve. If a deciding set is to be played, a new toss will be carried out.
4. In a coed tournament, play a minimum of three (3) females must be in the game at all times.
5. Maximum roster size is 12 players per team.
6. All protests will be settled before the next live ball.
7. If a team does not have sufficient players to start a game after the first referee requests play to begin, that team loses the game by default, the score shall be recorded as 25-0. An interval of up to 10 minutes shall be allowed for the team to have sufficient players to play the next game. If the team has six (6) players prior to the expiration of this interval, play shall begin immediately. After the 10 minute interval if the team still does not have six players present and ready to play, the match shall be declared a default.

8. 10U Girls/Boys/Coed may serve underhand up to the 10' line. Overhand serves must be attempted from behind the modified 25' baseline.

8U Specifics

1. Player Rotation: snake rotation
 - a. Definition of snake rotation: Standard clockwise rotation. Player from position 2 moves out to bench and player from bench enters position 1 to serve.
 - b. When the receiving team gains service, they must rotate their first server in from the bench. If a player is not being played in a set, they must sit in the stands with their parent/guardian. They cannot sit on the bench unless they are in the lineup for that set.
NOTE: If a player gets injured on the court, the player comes out of the game and they rotate one player in from bench. The player rotated in will lose their service position, but no points are lost. Once the injured player is replaced the team who has service keeps service.

10U and Older Specifics

1. Substitution – refer to USAV Official Rules for more detail.
 - a. Player Substitutions
 - i. Must be carried out within the substitution zone; between the 10 foot line and the net on the team's side.
 - ii. Max substitutions per set per team is eighteen (18). Players may only substitute for one player per set.
 - b. Libero Replacements
 - i. Libero replacements are not counted as substitutions. They are unlimited but there must be a completed rally between two replacements.
 - ii. A libero may ONLY replace a back-row player.
 - iii. Only take place while the ball is out of play and before the whistle of service.
 - iv. All replacements must be recorded by the Libero Tracker on the Libero Control Sheet.
2. Player Rotation: GHSA rotation
 - a. When a receiving team gains service, they must rotate to their first server. A team cannot start a service without rotating; unless they are the first serving team of the set.

ARTICLE III – EQUIPMENT

SECTION A – APPROVED EQUIPMENT

The game ball will be a USAV approved ball and shoes are mandatory.

SECTION B – UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

1. A uniform for volleyball is defined as a team shirt or jersey with numbers on the front and back identical in style and color with players on the same team. The basic body color determines matching jerseys. The logos, numbers, trim, etc. does not have to match if the basic color is the same. If players have illegal jerseys, teams will forfeit until they meet the standards for game play.
 - a. Approved uniform: (1) plain shirts with numbers, (2) agency name or agency abbreviation, or (3) agency logo with department/school mascot name. (***EFFECTIVE January 2025***)
2. If a libero is used, that player must have a team shirt or jersey different in color from the rest of the

team with a number on the front and back.

3. Coaches and non-player personnel must be attired in a manner that puts GRPA and its member agencies in a positive light. Tournament Directors, Officials, and GRPA State Athletic Committee members reserve the right to remove those from the contest who do not adhere to the standards set forth by the GRPA State Athletic Committee.
 - a. Managers, coaches, or team scorers who coach the bases must be attired in staff shirts or jerseys that are identical in style and color with each other.
4. No other youth sports organization patches will be allowed on uniforms in GRPA tournaments. Penalty – Illegal Equipment

SECTION C – COURT REQUIREMENTS

The court will be set to regulation USAV official dimensions. Any changes must be approved by the State Athletic Chair.

1. The net height will be:

Youth		Adult	
Division	Height	Division	Height
8U Girls/Boys/Coed	6'	Men Coed	8'
10U Girls/Boys/Coed	7'5"	Women	7'5"
12U Girls/Boys/Coed			
14U Girls/Boys/Coed			
17U Girls/Boys/Coed	8'		

2. Court Size & Serving:

Youth			Adult		
Division	Size	Service	Division	Size	Service
8U Girls/Boys/Coed 10U Girls/Boys/Coed	50' x 30'	Up to 10' line	Men Women Coed	60' x 30'	Regulation
12U Girls/Boys/Coed 14U Girls/Boys/Coed 17U Girls/Boys/Coed	60' x 30'	Regulation			

ARTICLE IV – GAMES AND AWARDS

SECTION A – DISTRICT

District level competition in all divisions of Volleyball is to be completed by the second Sunday in November.

SECTION B – STATE

All Divisions shall begin the third weekend in November or the weekend before Thanksgiving (must be approved by the State Athletic Committee).

SECTION C – TOURNAMENT SPECIFICS

Double elimination. YOUTH: A regulation match is best two out of three sets. First two sets played to 25 and third set played to 15. ADULT: A regulation match is best 3 out of 5 sets. The first 4 games are played to 25 with the fifth game being played to 15.

ARTICLE V – OFFICIALS AND PARTICIPANTS

SECTION A – HOST

1. Host Agency shall provide a minimum number of competent adults for scorers, libero trackers, line judges, Tournament Director, and a minimum of two (2) officials approved by the State Chair.
2. The Host Agency shall be responsible for providing USAV or GHSA approved volleyballs.
 - a. 8U and 10U Divisions will use a volley lite volleyball.
 - b. 12U and up will use a regulation size volleyball.
3. Host must have two (2) courts available to run matches consecutively.

SECTION B – GAME OFFICIALS

A minimum of two (2) sanctioned USAV or GHSA officials per court shall be used in district and state level GRPA competition. All officials should be either USAV or GHSA REGISTERED or in the process of certification.

ARTICLE VI – PROTESTS AND APPEALS***SECTION A – PROTESTS AND VOLLEYBALL RULES INFRACTION***

1. The judgment decision by an official on any play shall not be protested.
2. Protest on misinterpretation of the rules are allowed to the referee and if accepted as valid by the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director shall coordinate any such protest and shall serve as the odd-number member of the Tournament Protest Committee as determined prior to the game by the Agency Host in coordination with the District Commissioner for District level.
3. Protests and appeals are authorized only under stipulations found in this manual.

For more information regarding protests and appeals, see: Rule I, Article IV, Section C-11. For more information on protest committee organization and responsibility, see Rule II, Article I, Section