

SSC – Official Beach Volleyball 6’s Tournament Rules

OBJECTIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beach Volleyball is a team sport played by two teams on a sand court divided by a net. The objective is for each team to send the ball over the net attempting to ground it on the opponent’s court, and to prevent the ball from being grounded on its own court.
PLAYER ELIGIBILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All players must be added to the team roster by the team captain. This process confirms that all players have electronically agreed (checked the box) to our policies and online waiver.
GAME LENGTH & FOUL WEATHER GUIDELINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Games are 30 minutes in length. Games start and end according to your online SSC tournament schedule. If games start late, games must finish at the scheduled time (e.g. 6:35pm-7:00pm). Games are played rain or shine (please refer to our foul weather policy).
EQUIPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teams are welcome to bring one beach volleyball to every game. However, there will be volleyballs on-site for each team to warm up with.
PLAYERS ON COURT, GENDER RATIO AND DEFAULTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teams are comprised of 6 players on the court. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixed Gender: Teams must always play with a minimum of 2 men and 2 women on the court. Single Gender: Teams must always play with the same gendered players on the court. Open Gender: There are no minimum gender requirements. Players participate freely without restrictions existing as to how many players of each gender are on the court. A team can play with a minimum of 4 people, as long as the gender requirements are met for the specific league. Non-binary players count towards the team’s roster count. In mixed gender leagues, their team must still meet the minimum gender requirements on the court. Captains may agree to waive the rules regarding minimum players and gender ratio before the game starts. Teams that do not meet the minimum gender requirement may play with the ‘Ghost Rule’. This rule must be agreed upon by both teams before the start of the game. See rule description below. A default for the match (all three sets) will occur if any team cannot field a squad 15 minutes after the official start time (unless otherwise agreed by both captains).
GAME SET-UP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volleyball nets will be set up by the SSC Game Coordinator or facility staff upon arrival to your game. To determine who serves first, captains can play rock-paper- scissors. Teams are responsible for keeping score. SSC Tournament Coordinator will keep time.
GENERAL GAME RULES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matches are comprised of three sets (30-minutes). A player may play the ball off any part of their body, including feet. A player may not make two consecutive hits of the ball, except where the player has contacted the ball on a block, then the player may hit the ball a second time. Tips are allowed. However, teams can choose to play without this rule (i.e. tips not allowed and players use a closed fist instead). This must be decided on before the game starts. Players are to call balls ‘in’ or ‘out’ of bounds. If the ball touches any part of a court line, it is ‘in’. The ball must completely pass the line to be ‘out’. If there is a dispute, resume play by re-serving the ball with no point awarded. If a disagreement escalates, any disputes should be discussed amongst the two team captains only. Teams may call a 1-minute time-out per match if needed, except during the final 10 minutes of play.
ROUND ROBIN & PLAYOFF SCORING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Round Robin Scoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first team to score 15 points (hard cap) wins the set. A 30-minute match consists of best of 3 sets. All 3 sets should be played. The team that wins 2 of 3 sets wins the match. Match Point Scoring: Win = 2 points, Loss = 0 points, Tie = 1 point, Forfeit = -1 point.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playoff Scoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The first team to score 15 points (win by +2 points, hard cap of 17) wins the set. Best of 3 sets determines the winner. Third set is to 15 points (win by +2 points, hard cap 17). • If time runs out in the middle of a set, whichever team is winning at that moment is considered the winner. However, a team must win at least 5 points in a set in order for it to count as a win/loss. If neither team gets at least 5 points, the set is deemed a tie. • Following each match, please ensure your team captain records the score through the SSC website. • Team playoff position: Ties in the standings will be broken first by head-to-head play. If there are more than 2 teams that are tied, all the teams must have played each other in order for the results to go to head-to-head. Otherwise, most set wins (points scored), then overall set wins/loses (point differential), then least set loses (points against).
<p style="text-align: center;">PLAYER ROTATION AND POSITIONING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each of the 6 players must rotate positions after winning back the serve. • How to rotate: after serving from position one, players rotate to position six (middle back), then position five (left back), position four (left front), position three (middle front) and position two (right front) before returning to serve. • If your team has more than 6 players, the previous server exits the court and the new player takes position six (middle back).
<p style="text-align: center;">VIOLATIONS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players are to call their own fouls and violations. If an obvious foul is missed, a player on the opposing team may politely point this out, assuming their opponent either does not know the rule or missed their own foul. Generally, teams should not call fouls against their opponents. • Obvious fouls include - carries, double hits (allowed on serves), touching the net (see next point), going under the net and contacting another player. • Contact with the net by a player during the action of playing the ball, is a violation (fault). The action of playing the ball includes (among others) take-off, landing, hit, block and set. Players may touch the post, ropes, or any other object outside the antennae, including the net itself, provided that it does not interfere with play. • If the ball is driven into the net causing the net to touch an opponent, no fault is committed. • A player is permitted to pass his/her hand above the plane of the net in the following scenarios: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ While blocking an attack. ○ If a player is spiking the ball, their hand can cross the net as long as contact is initiated on their own side. ○ An infraction has occurred if a player interferes with their opponents attack (e.g. if a setter is trying to set their player, the opponent can't reach over the net and block that set). • Players are not permitted to penetrate fully into the opponent's space under the net. Player's feet must remain in contact with the 'centre line' and any part of the body above the feet. Players need to be as cautious as possible when crossing under the plane of the net, so as to avoid injury to themselves or their opponents.
<p style="text-align: center;">SERVING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A server may serve the ball from anywhere behind the baseline. • Only one toss or release of the ball is allowed per serve. • Players can open-hand volley a serve. • A player may NOT block or spike a serve. • Net serves are allowed. Meaning, if a serve hits the net but the motion of the ball carries it over, it is a live ball. • A double hit off of the serve is allowed (e.g. the serve hits the defender's arms and then chest). • Servers must rotate after five consecutive points. The same team continues to serve as long as his/her team successfully wins the point. • Recreational skill division – jump serves are not allowed (jump serves are allowed in intermediate, advanced and competitive leagues).
<p style="text-align: center;">GHOST RULE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a team does not meet the minimum gender requirements on the court, teams can decide to play with a 'ghost' in replacement of the missing player. As a penalty, the opposing team receives a 5 point advantage at the start of each set. The team which uses the ghost rule can have a maximum of 5 players on the court. Example – If a team has 5 men and 1 woman the ghost player is the 2nd woman, therefore the team may only have 4 men and 1 woman on the court (the 5th man would substitute into play). • The ghost rule encourages game play, fairness and discourages default situations. • The ghost rule is also designed to be used if a player is unable to continue play due to injury during a game. This allows the game to continue without a default as a result of an injury.

Remember... Always have fun!