

Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation
Youth Volleyball League Rules and Regulations

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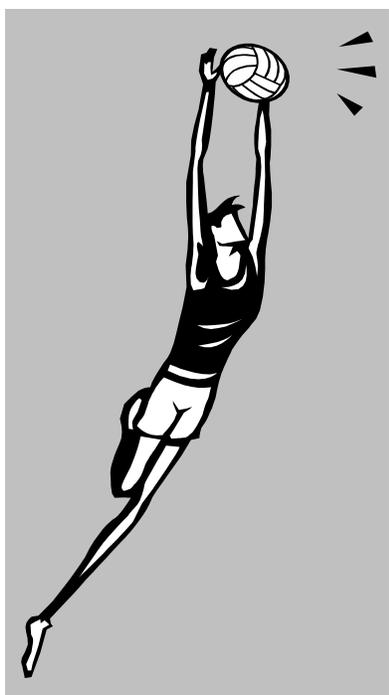


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GENERAL INFORMATION:

Administration: Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation
302 West Tryon Street
Hillsborough, NC 27278

Mailing Address: PO Box 8181
Hillsborough, NC 27278

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Telephone: 919.245.2660

Fax: 919.644.3042

Inclement Weather: 919.245.2669

Website: http://www.orangecountync.gov/recparks/youth_volleyballleague.asp

League Staff: James Lyon 919.245.2671 jlyon@orangecountync.gov
Lee Barnes 919.245.2668 lbarnes@orangecountync.gov

Facilities: Central Recreation Center (CRC)
302 West Tryon Street
Hillsborough, NC

I. LEAGUE OBJECTIVE:

The Orange County Youth Volleyball League is a recreational youth volleyball league that encourages good sportsmanship, teamwork, social interaction and physical fitness, as well as enhancing the basic fundamentals of volleyball. We are dedicated to providing a fun and safe environment that will ensure a positive and educational experience for everyone.

II. LEAGUE MANAGEMENT:

The governing body shall be vested in the Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation Department.

James Lyon, Recreation Supervisor shall serve as league coordinator.

III. DIVISIONS/ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Registration

Each player must be registered with the Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation and approved by the league coordinator as to all qualifications prior to he/she will be eligible for the ratings/draft.

Divisions

The League will be comprised of two age divisions.

- A. All-Stars – Nine-to-twelve-years-old.
- B. Platinum – Thirteen-to-fifteen-years-old.

Divisions may be adjusted based on final registration for each age group. Additionally, players may be moved up a division based on skill level and experience.

IV. DUTY OF THE COACH:

Coach Eligibility

All volunteers requesting to participate as a head coach/assistant coach are required to complete the following process through the Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation.

- Complete an Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation Volunteer Application.
- Complete a background check through Orange County administered by the Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation Department.
- Attend a mandatory coach's meeting/clinic.
- Attend a mandatory ratings/draft for the division.

Ensure Player Eligibility

It is the duty of each coach to ensure all participants on his/her team have registered for the league and are eligible to participate in practices/games.

Instruction

The coach shall be responsible to instruct each of his/her players during games/practices based on each individual's skill and playing ability. Less skilled players may at times need more instruction and explanation than more skilled players.

Schedules/Communication

The coach shall be responsible to contact all players notifying them of scheduled practices and games, and when practices or games are cancelled by the Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation Department. All coaches will receive game and practice schedules that are to be distributed to all players.

Coaches are not permitted to alter or change practice times without approval of the Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation.

Maintain Control

The coach is responsible for controlling his/her players during all practices/games to ensure that a player's behavior adheres to all rules and regulations and objective of the league.

V. PLAYER DRAFT

All eligible players will be assigned to teams through a ratings and draft process. The draft process is as follows:

Objective

The objective of Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation draft/ratings procedure for athletic leagues is to ensure that each parent, participant and coach are given the opportunity to participate in a fun, enjoyable and fair athletic league.

Attendance

All participants must register prior to the draft/ratings to participate in the any league. It is mandatory that all coaches, parents and participants attend their designated draft day and time. Players that do not attend a draft will be assigned onto teams by the Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation. A coach (or team representative) who does not attend the draft/ratings will be assigned a team by Orange County personnel.

Participant Responsibilities

1. To attend the mandatory scheduled ratings for your leagues division or age group.
2. To participate in the ratings skills and/or drills. (Participants should be dressed in the appropriate attire to athletically participate, i.e. sneakers, shorts or sweats and shirts.)
3. Following a participants rating he/she is permitted to leave. A call from your selected coach or OCDEAPR personnel shall be made no later than two weeks following the draft/ratings (At the time the coaches contact their players they will be notified of practice times and locations.).

Coach Responsibilities

1. To attend the mandatory schedule rating and draft day/time for the age division/league that you have volunteered to coach.
2. To fairly rate each participant in your coaching age/division attending the ratings/draft using the OCDEAPR draft/ratings sheet.
3. Select each player to your roster using the OCDEAPR draft/ratings procedure.
4. Contact each player you have selected onto your team to notify them of your practice schedule and location.

Open draft

The purpose of the open draft is to permit all volunteer coaches to select members of their team using an average ratings scoring system, which has been agreed upon by fellow coaches and OCDEAPR staff. This system is in place to best fairly distribute each player on a team. However, this does not guarantee each team will complete the season with identical records. Team records are impacted by many factors such as player attendance at practices and games.

Assessment Process

1. All players must attend their scheduled assessment time. A player is allowed a 10-minute grace period for start of assessments. If a participant arrives past that 10-minute period, (s)he is not allowed to participate and must instead reschedule for another assessment.
2. Participants that arrive early must wait until their scheduled assessment time.
3. Each participant will be called alphabetically and asked to complete a series of drills that test in skills such as passing, setting, serving, and agility. Following a participant's drill test each coach is asked to rate the participant using the above mentioned scale.
4. As the players are participating in assessment process, coaches within the division evaluate players as follows:
 - a. Calculate ratings as an average score on a scale of 1 to 4, with 1s being stronger players and 4s being players who need additional coaching.
 - b. Coaches' assessment ratings are combined with a post-season assessment from the child's previous coach (provided that rating occurred within the last 12 months and was for the same division in which the player is re-entering) to determine an average assessment.

Draft Order

Youth Volleyball Leagues will employ a snake draft method. Each coach will pick out of a hat a number designated one for each team in the division (for example: a 6-team division will have numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6). The corresponding selected number will be the coach drafting order. The first round (and all odd numbered rounds) will begin with coaches drafting in sequential order, with the coach drawing "1" taking the first pick, coach drawing "2" taking the second pick, and so on. The round continues until all coaches have made a selection. The second round (and all even numbered rounds) will begin with the coaches drafting in reverse sequential order, with the coach drawing the highest number taking the first pick and continuing downward until all coaches have made a selection.

Example using a 6-team league with 60 players:

Team1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5	Team 6
1	2	3	4	5	6
12	11	10	9	8	7
13	14	15	16	17	18
24	23	22	21	20	19
25	26	27	28	29	30
36	35	34	33	32	31
37	38	39	40	41	42
48	47	46	45	44	43
49	50	51	52	53	54
60	59	58	57	56	55

Freezes

A maximum of 3 freezes are allowed per team. Freezes are limited to:

- a. Coach's child(ren)
- b. Assistant coach's child(ren)
- c. Child with whom coach has familial or mentorship relationship

To freeze a child with which one has a mentorship relationship, a coach must submit a letter to the Recreation Division stating the nature of the mentorship relationship and it must be verified with the player's family. Failure to submit letter or for family to verify relationship will result in ineligibility to be frozen.

Draft Rounds

Youth Volleyball Leagues will employ a rolling draft process as follows:

- a. Using average player ratings, draft-eligible players are sorted by assessment into a ranked order. This ranked order forms the complete draft board.
 - i. In the case of a tie, players are arbitrarily ranked by assessment number
- b. At any given time, the frame of players eligible to draft is equal to the number of teams in the division (i.e. for a 6-team division, only six players at a time are draft-eligible). To begin the draft, the first "X" number of players (again, based on the number of teams in the division) from the ranked draft board are draft-eligible.
- c. Once a selection is made and that player effectively comes off the draft board, the draft frame rolls down one player to maintain the number of eligible players equal to the number of teams in a division (i.e. for a 6-team division, the first pick is of players ranked 1 through 6. After a player is chosen, player 7 now becomes draft-eligible to the next coach making a selection.)
- d. At such a time that a "frozen player" (i.e. player frozen by coach or sibling of player previously chosen – see "freezes" below) rolls into the draft frame:
 - i. If that player is frozen by the coach making the selection, that player is automatically drafted to the selecting team and the draft process continues on.
 - ii. If that player is frozen by a coach other than the team currently making the selection, the draft frame rolls down two players. Being already locked to a team, the frozen player is technically not draft-eligible. Therefore, the draft frame rolls one additional player to ensure that the selecting coach has the appropriate number of players available for selection based on the number of teams in the division.
 - iii. Once the coach with a freeze on that child comes up to draft, that child must automatically be selected by that coach. The draft frame will not roll at that point because a frozen player has come off the frame, and the number of draft-eligible players will remain the same to the next coach.
 - iv. **Exception** – In rounds 1-3 (in a 6-team division), players ranked 1-6 are first round draft picks, players 7-12 are second round draft picks, and 13-18 are third round draft picks. In the first three rounds, if a coach's freeze from a lower round rolls into the draft frame due to other teams' freezes, the coach will have the option to take a player from a higher round or their freeze. If they do not select their freeze, the freeze must be drafted the following round. This exception expires after the third round.

Team Size

Teams shall be made up of no more than 11 players.

Rosters

Rosters are set as of the first team practice.

A player must play on the team that he/she is assigned to through the draft process and may only switch teams at the discretion of the league commissioner in consultation with league advisors.

Teams that have players drop may request a replacement player, if available. The league commissioner and not the head and/or assistant coach from the team will select replacement players.

Knowingly permitting a player to participate in a game without having registered for the program shall result in ejection for the remainder of the league/activity season.

VI. CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS:

(IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL OTHER OCDEAPR-ATHLETICS PROGRAMS)

All participants, coaches, officials and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a manner in line with the goals and objectives of the Youth Volleyball League. Any individual found to be in violation of any rule and regulation shall be sanctioned according to the below explained chart for Penalties and Sanctions.

In addition to the rules explained in the Penalties and Sanctions, any participant, coach, or spectator that is ejected by an official is automatically suspended for the remainder of the current day's games, and subsequent following game in addition to ejection from the facility.

All penalties and sanctions levied by an official or Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation staff are determined on a case-by-case basis and are final. **No protests will be permitted.**

**ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE, PARKS AND RECREATION
PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS FOR COACHES AND LEAGUE OFFICIALS**

INFRACTION	DIRECTED TOWARDS	PENALTY/SANCTION (S)
Use of alcohol or drugs	During game, practice or other league or team event where players are present	1 st offense-Suspension for the remainder of the season.
Knowingly requiring or allowing a player to play while having a serious injury creating unsafe playing conditions. (Failure to notify staff at occurrence of injury.)	During game, practice or other league or team event where players are present.	1 st offense-Two game suspensions and a meeting with league staff. 2 nd offense-Suspension for the remainder of the season.
Foul or abusive language.	A player, coach, official or spectator	1 st offense-Ejection from current game and one game suspension. 2 nd offense-Two-game suspension and meeting with league staff.
Threatening/derogatory gesture or language.	A player, coach, official or spectator	1 st offense-Ejection from current game and two-game suspension. 2 nd offense-Suspension for remainder of season.
Knowingly permitting a player to participate in a game without having registered for the program.	League and league administrators	Ejection for the remainder of the league/activity season.
Striking or bodily assault resulting in contact and /or injury to	A player, coach, official or spectator	Lifetime suspension for all Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation youth sports.

**ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE, PARKS AND RECREATION
PENALTIES AND/OR SANCTIONS FOR PARENTS, LEGAL GUARDIANS AND SPECTATORS**

INFRACTIONS	DIRECTED TOWARDS	PENALTY/SANCTION(S)
Use of Alcohol or drugs	Within any County facility during the game, practice or other league or team event where players are present	1 st offense-Ejection from facility 2 nd offense-Two-week suspension 3 rd offense-Suspension for the remainder of the season.
Interference with the conduct of the game	Resulting in stoppage of play	1 st offense-Ejection from facility 2 nd offense-Two-week suspension 3 rd offense-Suspension for the remainder of the season.
Foul or abusive language	A player, coach, official or spectator	Ejection from facility park and a mandatory meeting with league administrators.
Threatening/Derogatory gesture and/or language	A player, coach, official or spectator	Ejection from the facility or park, a one-week suspension from OCDEAPR facilities and parks and mandatory meeting with league administrators.
Striking in any threatening fashion	A player, coach, official or spectator	1 st offense-Ejection from the facility or park, a one-year suspension (from the date of occurrence). 2 nd offense- Lifetime suspension from all OCDEAPR Youth Sports

Additional Conduct Rules

Communicating with Officials

Coaches are not allowed to communicate to officials on any matter while the game is in play. Coaches must wait until an interruption to discuss any matter with an official in a quiet professional manner. Coaches must control any discussion or comments to officials, from their bench or players, at all times.

Violations are outlined below.

Standing in Bench Area

Only one coach at a time per team can be standing during the course of a game. Exceptions are permitted in the cases of timeouts, injuries, and stoppages between games.

Violations are outlined below.

Violations

For violations regarding conduct with officials, the following procedure will be followed:

1st incident – Referee, league administrator, or delegate will issue a verbal warning.

2nd incident – Referee, league administrator, or delegate will declare the loss of rally with the opponent being awarded one point.

3rd incident – Referee, league administrator, or delegate will declare immediate expulsion from the match. There are no additional penalties beyond the expulsion. In the event of an expulsion, the guilty party must leave the playing area/gymnasium immediately. Any player or coach that is expelled is automatically suspended for the remainder of the current day's games, and subsequent following game in addition to ejection from the facility.

Mandatory Cordial Handshake

At the end of the third game of the match, the teams will be signaled to the end line by the referee. Subsequently the referee will signal the teams forward to shake hands at the net. All players on the benches and the coaches are expected to participate.

VII. LEAGUE RULES:

USA Volleyball Rules and Regulations shall govern all rules and regulations within the Orange County Youth Volleyball League unless otherwise stated.

A. Equipment

Required Dress

The league-provided shirt is the official uniform of the OCDEAPR Youth Volleyball League. Team members must wear the league-issued shirt during games. The team shirt cannot be altered or added to in any way.

Restricted Dress

Team members are not permitted to wear equipment or apparel which may be considered dangerous, confusing to other players, or inappropriate. Examples of such clothing include but are not limited to:

- Jewelry – Jewelry such as necklaces, watches, bracelets, and rings are not permitted. All earrings must be removed. Medic alert necklaces and religious medals must be taped to the player’s body if they cannot be removed. Livestrong-type bracelets must be removed.
- Metal hair clips or hard (plastic, metal, etc) headbands must be removed.

B. Equipment

Balls/Net Height

The standards for all divisions shall be as follows:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Volleyball</u>	<u>Net Height</u>
9-12-years-old	Tachikara Volley-Lite	2.13 meters (7’0”)
13-15-years-old	Tachikara SV-5WS	2.24 meters (7’ 4½”)

OCDEAPR will furnish volleyballs for all games or practices. Coaches may bring their own balls provided they are used for practice purposes only. Coaches should inform all team members not to bring their own balls to any game or practice.

OCDEAPR will adjust net height based on game or practice scheduled. Coaches, players, or parents are not permitted to adjust net heights.

C. Playing Rules

Local league rules as follows will take precedence over any USA Volleyball Rule.

Length of Game

- **Game Preliminaries** – Teams are allowed to begin their warm-ups at 10 minutes before the hour once the previous teams have vacated the court. If the previous match has finished early, the next teams playing may take advantage of a vacant court.

Teams will share the court during warm up time. If coaches request hitting time – 5 minutes of the pre-game warm-up should be broken into 2 minutes of hitting for each team followed with 1 minute of shared serving (2-2-1).

The official will call a captain’s meeting at least 3 minutes before the scheduled start time of each match. The two teams’ captains will meet for instructions and to conduct two coin tosses – the first game coin toss and the third game coin toss. The home team (team listed first on the schedule) will make the first coin call. The third game coin call will be made by the team captain of the visiting team. The team winning the coin toss for the first game can choose the right to serve or to receive the service OR the side of the court. The other team takes the remaining alternative. If team A serves first in game #1, team B will serve first in game #2. The second coin toss is ONLY to determine who will serve or receive in the third game.

- **Time Limit** – All matches will be played under a 60-minute time limit. Each court will have a running clock visible to all indicating the time remaining in the match. If the time limit of

60 minutes is invoked, the team ahead at the expiration of time will be declared the winner of that game.

- **Match Format** – All matches shall consist of three games, regardless of who won the first two.

Matches for all divisions will consist of 2 games to 25 points rally scoring. Winner must win by 2 points with a cap of 27 in the event of a tie. The first team to 27, with or without that 2-point lead, is declared the winner.

The third game will be played to 15 points with a cap of 17 points.

- **Intervals** – Intervals between sets will be 1 minute in length. The clock operator will signal a horn when 15 seconds are left in the interval period. At this time, coaches should complete their final preparation for the next game and be ready to come onto the court after time expires.

Playing Time

- **Number of Players** – A minimum number of four players is required for an official/referee to begin any game. If additional player(s) arrive, those player(s) may enter the game after the next stop in play. When playing with less than six players, the team will not lose the serve when the missing player “hole” goes to serve. The next player in the rotation will serve.

Due to safety for all participants, no game will be permitted to continue without four players on the court for each team at all times. If a team drops below four players, the game will be declared a forfeit.

In the event of a forfeit, no make-up game will be permitted.

- **Grace Period** – If a team fails to take the court with the minimum number of players by 10 minutes after the hour, a forfeit will be awarded to the other team for game #1. If the same team fails to take the court by 20 minutes after the hour, they will forfeit game #2. If the same team fails to take the court by 30 minutes after the hour, they will forfeit game #3. If a match starts late, that time is not recoverable at the end of the match.
- **Continuous Rotation** – All divisions will play with continuous rotation. The substitute will enter the game in the center back position. Rotation will follow Appendix A.

For games 2 and 3, lineup will begin with next server in rotation from previous game.

- **Exceptions** – Exceptions to the mandatory playing rule will be made in the case of the following:
 - A player becomes ill or injured.
 - A player is removed for conduct.
 - A player is removed for discipline with permission of the league coordinator (see below).

- **Discipline** – If a coach requests to discipline a player for the length of or any duration during a game the coach must submit a letter in writing to league coordinator explaining the reason for the disciplinary action and subsequent suspension.
- **Violations** – Failure to adhere to any portion of the playing time rule will result in a mandatory one-game suspension for a coach to be served during his/her team's next scheduled game.

Time Outs

- Each team will be allowed two time-outs per game. Time-outs last 30 seconds. If any time-outs are called after the 2-minute warning has been issued, the referee will grant the time-out and extend play beyond the 60-minute time limit by the length of the time-outs.

Playing Area

- Green lines indicate volleyball playing area. If any portion of the ball falls on any portion of the line it is considered IN.
- Areas out of play include: gym walls, basketball backboards and rims, and bleachers. Additionally, a ball is out if it hits the antenna or if it crosses the net outside of the antenna.
- During a serve, a ball hitting the lights, ductwork, or ceiling/rafters is out of play.
- If during a volley, the ball hits the lights, ductwork, or ceiling/rafters, and comes back to the team that hit it, they may continue to play it, as long as they are still within their 3 hit maximum. If during a volley, the ball hits the lights, ductwork, or ceiling/rafters, and goes over to the other team, it is a dead ball and a point is awarded to the opposing team.
- A ball that hits the net is in play.

The Serve

- If a player serves 4 consecutive points, a rotation shall occur and the next player in line to serve will do so.
- Servers must always be positioned behind the service line prior to contacting the ball. The entire width of the court is available to the server. A foot on the line at the time the ball is contacted is a foot fault violation and will result in loss of serve and a point for the opposing team.
- The service line for each division shall be as follows:
 - 9-12-years-old – black basketball sideline or green volleyball end line. A player that has difficulty serving may serve the first 2 serves from the black line, but must move back to the green end line for serves 3 and 4.
 - 13-15-years-old – end line (traditional service line). A player that has difficulty serving may serve 2 serves from the black basketball sideline but the serve must be underhanded. After 2 successful serves, the player must move back to the green end line.

- A team serving out of rotation, whether intentional or not, will result in the loss of the rally with the opposing team receiving one point and the serve.
- Let serves (serve which hits the net and crosses over) are legal.

D. Officials and Staff

One official and one supervisor/scorekeeper will be assigned by the OCDEAPR.

Official's responsibilities

All game officials will be responsible for rules enforcement on the court during all games. The official's responsibilities will include:

- Pre-match meetings with both teams (captains & coaches) and line judges
- Rules enforcement during match play
- Enforcing any violations to code of conduct (in coordination with supervisor/scorekeeper)

Supervisor/Scorekeeper Responsibilities

Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation staff shall be responsible for overseeing all activity within the facility. Supervisor/scorekeeper responsibilities will include:

- Facility set-up and equipment distribution (assuring floors swept, nets at proper height, correct balls in use, etc.)
- Scoreboard management, including running game clock and notification of time limit
- Enforcing any violations to code of conduct (in coordination with official)

Line Judges

It is the responsibility of the head coach of each team to provide one volunteer (13 years or older) for every match to serve as a line judge. The line judges should meet with the official before the match for a review of their responsibilities. The match referee reserves the right to overturn any call made by the linespersons.

E. Tournament Play:

The season will conclude with an end-of-season tournament. Seeding for this tournament will be based on results from regular-season play and determined by:

1. Overall record
2. Head-to-head match-up
3. Total games won
4. Point differential
5. Coin-toss

Match play (best 2 out of 3 games) will be used in the post-season tournament. For the purpose of tournament play, all other regular season rules will be in effect.

VIII. WEATHER POLICY AND RESCHEDULING

| All coaches/parents should call the weather hotline for cancellation information 919.245.2669 for game and practice cancellations. The weather hotline is updated by 4:00 p.m. on weekdays and 7:00 a.m. on weekends.

OCDEAPR will reschedule games when there is availability in scheduling. Cancelled practices will not be rescheduled.