

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL RULEBOOK



RULEBOOK

Page intentionally left blank for printing

Table of Contents

General Information	1
Age Groups	1
Eligibility	1
Late Arrivals and Forfeits	1
Postseason Play	2
Uniforms	2
Expectations and Code of Ethics	3
Player Expectations	3
Parent/Guardian/Spectator Expectations	4
Coach/Volunteer Expectations	5
Officials Expectations	6
Ages 10 and Under	7
Equipment & Court Specifications	7
Game Structure	7
Game Tactics	7
Highlighted Game Play Rules	7
Ages 12 and Under	7
Equipment & Court Specifications	7
Game Structure	8
Game Tactics	8
Highlighted Game Play Rules	8
Ages 14 and Under	9
Equipment & Court Specifications	9
Game Structure	9
Game Tactics	9
Highlighted Game Play Rules	9
Contact Us	10

General Information

CRPD Youth Sports League

Official Rules and Guidelines for Columbus Recreation and Parks Youth Girls Volleyball Program. Columbus Recreation and Parks Youth Girls Volleyball is a recreational league focused on skill development, teamwork and learning the fundamentals of volleyball in a safe and fun environment.

Eligibility

Age groups are determined by the participant's age on March 16 of the current year. Columbus Recreation and Parks reserve the right to combine or alter age groups based on registration numbers and safety considerations. Players may not play down to a lower age group. Playing up an age group requires approval from the Sports Office and written consent from a parent or guardian.

10U Girls

12U Girls

14U Girls

- Team rosters must be completed and turned in by April 3, 2026, for players to be eligible for postseason play.
- Players must have played a minimum of 4 regular-season games to be eligible for postseason play.
- Proof of age documents must be presented in order for players to participate in postseason play.
- Age verification may be required using:
 - Birth certificate
 - State ID
 - Insurance card

Late Arrivals and Forfeits

Game clock will start at the designated game time regardless of team is ready to play or not. Games can start with 5 players.

If any team that forfeits 2 games in the first 3 weeks they will be removed from the schedule for the remainder of the season and are ineligible for postseason play. The Youth Sports Office will verify all forfeits prior to removal from the game schedule.

Postseason Play

Playoffs are available for teams that participated in the CRPD Citywide Volleyball League (10U, 12U, and 14U.) Playoffs and championship games will be held at Schiller for the City League. Spectators will pay an entry fee for adults only at the door.

Uniforms

Jerseys and knee pads.

- 1st offense – warning
- 2nd offense – sub out

Team members must have matching uniforms. All players need to have the same-colored jerseys with a number on the back.

No jewelry may be worn while on the volleyball court.

No gum chewing in the gym and/or during the game.

Location of Coaches

Only 2 coaches are allowed per team. A 6-foot coaching box will be marked and used in front of the benches. One coach is allowed in the coach's box at a time. Coaches should be sitting unless they call a timeout or to celebrate their team.

Expectations and Code of Ethics

Player Expectations

- Show respect for all players, parents, coaches, officials, staff and spectators.
- Be a team player and help others to enjoy the CRPD sports experience.
- Make an effort to attend all practices and games. Communicate to coaches when you are unable to attend.
- Help maintain a safe environment for play by learning and adhering to the rules and policies of CRPD.
- Have a positive attitude at all times and recognize that recreational sports are focused on the fun of the game and not winning and losing.
- Be the best citizen that you can be for the good of yourself and the community.

Parent/Guardian/Spectator Expectations

All parents, guardians and spectators involved with our programs must abide by our Code of Ethics. They also must impart these values to their children and lead by example. Our youth look to us for guidance and learn from our behaviors and words. We ask that all adhere to these values to improve our community.

Parents' Code of Ethics

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following the National Alliance of Youth Sports - Parents' Code of Ethics:

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game, practice or other youth sports event.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will insist that my child plays in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will require that my child's coach is trained in the responsibilities of being a youth sports coach and that the coach upholds the Coaches Code of Ethics.
- I will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol, and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will remember that the game is for youth - not for adults.
- I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.
- I will help my child enjoy the youth sports experience by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectful fan, assisting with coaching or providing transportation.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
- I will read the National Standards for Youth Sports and do what I can to help all youth sports organizations implement and enforce them.

Coach/Volunteer Expectations

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department believes that all youth athletes should have a positive introduction to and experience in sports. Our programs emphasize fun, sportsmanship, a healthy approach to competition and discourages the “win at all costs” attitude while striving for excellence in all areas. Participants, coaches, parents, volunteers and employees are expected to support this philosophy.

Coaches' Code of Ethics

The following Code of Ethics has been developed in compliance with standards set forth by the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department and the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA).

Each coach is expected to maintain a high level of integrity and professionalism both on and off the court. A coach's primary responsibility is to develop good citizens and athletes and to instill a passion for the game in our players. Our coaches' performance is not measured by wins and losses, but rather in what they teach the players in terms of technique, sportsmanship and fair play.

- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of my personal desire to win.
- I will treat each player as an individual; remember the large range of emotional and physical development for these age groups.
- I will be responsible for my demands on the player's time, energy and enthusiasm. I will remember that they have other interests. I will always remember that my players are children, not professional athletes.
- I will always exhibit proper and ethical behavior while interacting with players, coaches, officials, leagues, staff and parents at all games. I understand that the use of foul or abusive language is strictly prohibited.
- I promise to review and practice the basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players.
- I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.
- I will treat each player, opposing coach, official, staff and parent with respect and dignity.
- I will remember that I am a youth sports coach and that the game is for children and not adults.

Officials Expectations

Each official is expected to maintain a high level of integrity and professionalism both on and off the court. An official's primary responsibility is to develop athletes' skills through education of the rules and oversee the safety of each player.

Expectations

Before the game

- Arrive at a minimum of 5-10 minutes early
- Double-check game times and location

Uniforms

- What is required:
 - Official shirt
 - Long black slacks
 - Black shoes/socks
 - Shirt tucked in at all times
 - No sweats/workout pants

Start of game

- Review game schedule as games need to start on time.
- While officiating, please provide the best customer service to the coaches', players and spectators.

Evaluation and Reporting

- Each official will be evaluated on the following:
 - Effort
 - Communication
 - Signals
 - Professionalism
 - Promptness (Early/Late)
- Any positive/negative feedback we hear from customers, players and coaches will be accounted for in your review.
 - Positive feedback from customers will allow for increased games to officiate.

Behavioral Expectations

The rules below apply to parents/guardians, spectators, coaches, and players.

Zero Tolerance Policy

Unsportsmanlike or abusive behavior by spectators, coaches, players or teams will not be tolerated. Individual and team penalties will be given by administrators of the program and will be based on the severity of the actions (see below).

- Any violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy will warrant a minimum one game probation from all CRPD leagues or tournaments, including participation as a spectator, for any sporting events held at Columbus Recreation and Parks facilities. The Youth Sports Office will make a determination if a longer penalty is warranted as to the severity of the situation or the status of participation in multiple sports or leagues.
- The jurisdiction of game officials does not end until they have vacated the game site and surrounding areas. An individual does not have the right to abuse a game official because the official contest has concluded. Ejections or other game penalties may still be given at or beyond the conclusion of the contest and shall be considered in all aspects of a participant's conduct.
- The suspension period does not include postponed games.
- Anyone ejected for unsportsmanlike behavior must leave the facility immediately. Failure to do so could result in the game being forfeited.
- After an incident is reported, the Youth Sports Office will review the situation, collect all necessary information and make a decision on any disciplinary action.

Ejection Policy and Disciplinary Action

A participant or spectator in a City of Columbus Recreation and Parks program that violates the Zero Tolerance Policy and is ejected or suspended from any facility, program, contest, or activity for the following acts of unsportsmanlike or misconduct, shall be subjected to the following disciplinary procedures:

- Hitting, striking, pushing or any contact of a City of Columbus Recreation and Parks employee, official/umpire, participant or spectator.
 - Disciplinary Action: Suspension from City of Columbus Recreation and Parks facilities and/or programs for a minimum of one year.
- Threatening physical harm or the use of any intimidation towards a City of Columbus Recreation and Parks employee, official/umpire, participant, or spectator.
 - Disciplinary Action: Suspension from City of Columbus Recreation and Parks facilities and/or programs for a minimum of one month.
- Verbally abusing a City of Columbus Recreation and Parks employee, official/umpire, participant, or spectator.
 - Disciplinary Action: Suspension from City of Columbus Recreation and Parks programs and/or facilities for a minimum of one week.
- Acting in a way which would cause equipment or facility damage, and/or injury to a person.
 - Disciplinary Action: Suspension from City of Columbus Recreation and Parks programs and/or facilities for a minimum of one month.
- Failing to cooperate and respond honestly to inquiries or requests for assistance in identifying individuals who may be involved in incidents.
 - Disciplinary Action: Suspension from City of Columbus Recreation and Parks programs and/or facilities for the individual and/or their team, club, or organization for a minimum of one month.
- Participating under an assumed name, providing false information, or illegally participating in a division of play.
 - Disciplinary Action: Suspension City of Columbus Recreation and Parks programs and/or facilities for a minimum of one week.
- Personal conduct situations that are not covered by the provisions stated in the above items #1-6 will be dealt with in an appropriate manner by the Recreation Administrative Manager and/or Coordinator within Youth Sports at their discretion.

Ages 10 and Under

Equipment & Court Specifications

Topic	Rule
Size of Ball	Volley Lite Volleyball
Height of Net	7' (if equipped)
Players on Court	6 vs 6
Serving Line	Players may serve from inside the court where they can successfully serve over the net.
Court Size	Use of pickle ball court lines for back line due to backboard. Side lines are volleyball.
Equipment	Court shoes required. Knee pads recommended. No jewelry allowed.

Game Structure

Topic	Rule
Match Length	Matches will consist of two sets played to 25 points , with teams required to win by two points , and a 45-minute time limit . If one team wins the first match and the other team is winning the second match by at least 2 points with 7 minutes or less remaining in the time limit, the second match may be ended early and recorded as a win for the leading team. A third and deciding match will then be played to 5 points or until match time expires .
Sets	To 25 points
Scoring	Rally Scoring
Win By	2 points or first team to 30
Timeouts	1 timeout per set

Game Tactics

Topic	Rule
Serving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two attempts allowed on first serve for that player to get the ball into play. Serve can be underhand or overhand. If they hit the net or ball goes out of bounds, they are awarded a second try. If a player scores a point on their serve, their next serve is limited to one attempt only.
Consecutive Serves	Maximum of 5 points served and then a rotation of players for player to serve.
Rotations	Clockwise rotation
Hits	Maximum of 3 hits per team

Highlighted Game Play Rules

Topic	Rule
Substitutions	Coaches may substitute players at any stoppage of play ("dead ball").
Ball hitting the ceiling Rules	If the ball hits the opposing teams ceiling, it will be ruled out. If the ball hits your own ceiling between the 3 hits, then they can continue playing.
Switching court sides	Due to time constraints, we will not switch court sides after the match.
Blocking / Attacking Serve	Not allowed
Double Hits	Not allowed

Ages 12 and Under

Equipment & Court Specifications

Topic	Rule
Size of Ball	Volley Lite Volleyball
Height of Net	7'
Players on Court	6 vs 6
Serving Line	Serve progress may begin and move back to line as skill improves
Court Size	Use of pickle ball court lines for back line due to backboard. Side lines are volleyball.
Equipment	Court shoes required. Knee pads recommended. No jewelry allowed.

Game Structure

Topic	Rule
Match Length	Matches will consist of two sets played to 25 points , with teams required to win by two points , and a 45-minute time limit . If one team wins the first match and the other team is winning the second match by at least 2 points with 7 minutes or less remaining in the time limit, the second match may be ended early and recorded as a win for the leading team. A third and deciding match will then be played to 5 points or until match time expires .
Sets	To 25 points
Scoring	Rally Scoring
Win By	2 points, or first team to 30
Timeouts	1 timeout per set

Game Tactics

Topic	Rule
Serving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two attempts allowed on first serve for that player to get the ball into play. Serve can be underhand or overhand. If they hit the net or ball goes out of bounds, they are awarded a second try. If a player scores a point on their serve, their next serve is limited to one attempt only.
Consecutive Serves	Maximum of 5 points served and then a rotation of players for player to serve.
Rotations	Clockwise rotation
Hits	Maximum of 3 hits per team

Highlighted Game Play Rules

Topic	Rule
Substitutions	Coaches may substitute players at any stoppage of play ("dead ball").
Ball hitting the ceiling Rule	If the ball hits the opposing teams ceiling, it will be ruled out. If the ball hits your own ceiling between the 3 hits, then they can continue playing.
Blocking / Attacking Serve	Not allowed

Double Hits	Not allowed
Ball Out of Play	If ball contacts walls, curtains, or ceiling and crosses the net

Ages 14 and Under

Equipment & Court Specifications

Topic	Rule
Size of Ball	Official Volleyball
Height of Net	7'
Players on Court	6 vs 6
Serving Line	Serve progress may begin and move back to line as skill improves
Court Size	Use of pickle ball court lines for back line due to backboard. Side lines are volleyball.
Equipment	Court shoes required. Knee pads recommended. No jewelry allowed.

Game Structure

Topic	Rule
Match Length	Matches will consist of two sets played to 25 points , with teams required to win by two points , and a 45-minute time limit . If one team wins the first match and the other team is winning the second match by at least 2 points with 7 minutes or less remaining in the time limit, the second match may be ended early and recorded as a win for the leading team. A third and deciding match will then be played to 5 points or until match time expires .
Sets	To 25 points
Scoring	Rally Scoring
Win By	2 points, or first team to 30.
Timeouts	1 timeout per set

Game Tactics

Topic	Rule
Serving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two attempts allowed on first serve for that player to get the ball into play. Serve can be underhand or overhand. If they hit the net or ball goes out of bounds, they are awarded a second try. If a player scores a point on their serve, their next serve is limited to one attempt only.
Consecutive Serves	Maximum of 5 points served and then a rotation of players for player to serve.
Rotations	Clockwise rotation
Hits	Maximum of 3 hits per team

Highlighted Game Play Rules

Topic	Rule
Substitutions	Coaches may substitute players at any stoppage of play ("dead ball").
Ball hitting the ceiling Rule	If the ball hits the opposing teams ceiling, it will be ruled out. If the ball hits your own ceiling between the 3 hits, then they can continue playing.
Blocking / Attacking Serve	Not allowed
Double Hits	Not allowed

Ball Out of Play	If ball contacts walls, curtains, or ceiling and crosses the net
------------------	--

Contact Us



Sports Office
Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
1111 East Broad Street, Suite 103
Columbus, Ohio 43205

columbusrecparks.com

614-645-2753
ambrown@columbus.gov