



Medford Parks & Recreation Sand Volleyball Rules & Regulations

Rev. June 2019

The Medford Parks and Recreation Department (MPRD) reserves the right to change rules, regulations and policies whenever due cause warrants a change. USA Volleyball Beach Rules govern play unless modified by City rules and regulations.

1. ELIGIBILITY

- A. Minimum age for all city-league players is 18. Teams are allowed to utilize up to two 16- or 17-year-old players if a parent or guardian signs the roster or liability release form.

2. REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

- A. All teams must submit official roster forms with the individual signatures, email addresses and contact information for at least four players. Identification may be required. (MPRD recommends having at least six players on the roster.)
- B. League fees are due upon registration.
- C. Additions to the roster will be accepted at the court prior to the start of the match. In order to become eligible to compete, new players must sign team rosters and/or liability release forms in person at the volleyball venue prior to playing in a city league contest. All roster additions are subject to approval by the League Director based on eligibility guidelines.
- D. Teams are welcome to apply for a particular league. However, the League Director may place teams into leagues or divisions in order to achieve scheduling and competitive balance and to maximize facility usage. Previous team performance may be taken into account during the league formation and scheduling process.

3. LEAGUE REGULATIONS

- A. A Facility Supervisor, employed by MPRD, will be in charge of the facility, including oversight of participants and spectators. Supervisors have the authority to take appropriate actions necessary to maintain a safe and orderly environment.
- B. Team captains are responsible for informing their team of pertinent information, including cancellations, rules, regulations and scheduling. **Weather advisories, schedules, rules and standings are posted at www.sportsmedford.com.**
- C. Game time (as determined by the Facility Supervisor) is forfeit time.
- D. **Forfeits.** In 4x4 play, if a team cannot field at least two players at the scheduled game time, it will forfeit Game 1. If the forfeiting team obtains the necessary number of eligible players within 20 minutes of the original start time, it may play Game 2 without forfeiture. When a team is reduced to fewer than two players, the game shall be forfeited. Teams involved in forfeits may not practice on the court while other games are in progress.
- E. **No more than two men may play on a 4x4 Co-Ed team at any given time**, but more than two men may be listed on a roster.
- F. Teams must have at least one male player on the court in order to be eligible to play.
- G. **In Co-Ed play, when a ball is contacted more than once by the same team, one of the contacts must be by a female player.** Exception: When a male player sends the ball over the net during a service reception.

- H. MPRD shall provide a game ball, if needed. In the event an MPRD game ball is not available or acceptable to both teams, captains must agree on a game ball prior to starting a match. The game ball must be a stitched sand or "AVP" volleyball.
- I. The team listed first on the schedule shall serve first for Game 1. The team listed second shall serve first for Game 2. If it is unknown which team is listed first on the schedule, team captains may flip a coin or teams may play a non-counting point to determine home team.
- J. Each team is allotted one 30-second timeout per game. Injury timeouts do not count as a team timeout, but match time will not be extended due to injury stoppages.
- K. MPRD maintains a "free agent" list as a courtesy to short-handed team captains. Free agents may play at only one skill level (e.g. "A"-league). If the free agent has played more than three times for the same team, he or she will be considered a permanent member of the team and may not substitute on other teams.
- L. MPRD is not responsible for lost or stolen equipment or personal items. Jewelry, watches, bracelets, dangling earrings, necklaces, rings, etc. are not allowed to be worn on the court and should be left at home whenever possible. Personal belongings must be placed completely out of play in areas where they pose no threat to safety.

4. SCORING

- A. A game is won when a team scores 25 rally scoring points and the team leads by at least two points. If the score is tied at 24-24, play continues until one team has a lead of two points. A third tiebreaker game to 15 will be played if necessary. First team to reach 15 points wins the match.
- B. Teams switch sides on multiples of 10 combined points scored (e.g. 20-10; 19-11; 5-5; etc.)
- C. Due to time and space restrictions, teams will play two games per match. League standings are based on individual games won and lost.
- D. Teams are responsible for reporting game scores to the Facility Supervisor. If scores are not reported, both teams receive losses.
- E. Teams and players are responsible for calling their own faults. No protests will be accepted. Discrepancies or problems should be dealt with promptly. The Facility Supervisor will be happy to assist team captains in interpreting the rules, if possible.
- F. Scores should be called out before each serve.

5. CONTACTING THE BALL

- A. A maximum of three successive contacts per side after a serve or block attempt.
- B. A ball may be contacted with any portion of the body (unless the ball touches multiple parts of the body on the same attempt, which is considered a double-contact fault).
- C. In Co-Ed play, when a ball is contacted more than once on a side, one of the contacts must be from a female player.
- D. A block attempt is not considered a contact.
- E. Open-handed tips are not permitted. The infracting team will lose the point and service.
- F. All serves must originate in the sand area. Serving from the grass berm is not permitted.
- G. A player may not deliberately return a serve over the net with a set.
- H. Players may go under the net only if he or she does not contact, obstruct or interfere with opposing player(s).
- I. Play is ruled dead if it crosses the sideline of the adjacent court. Players are not allowed to step onto an adjacent court to play a ball. Do not step onto another court to retrieve a ball until play has stopped. Please yell "BALL" when a

wayward volleyball may pose a safety hazard.

- J. Service reception may not be a block or an attack made when the ball is entirely above the net.
- K. Setting a service reception is permitted unless:
 - a. The ball is lifted.
 - b. Contacted multiple times when executed in the same motion.

6. CODE OF CONDUCT

- A. No smoking, tobacco chewing, profanity or obscene gestures allowed.
- B. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on Medford City park properties.
- C. No physical attacks or verbal threats before, during or after games will be tolerated.
- D. Any player or spectator deemed by the Facility Supervisor to not have control of his/her faculties to the extent that there is a chance of physical injury to him/her or others will be asked to leave the facility.
- E. Destruction of property, theft or assault before, during or after activity will be handled by law enforcement. Individuals and teams will be held equally responsible for any damage or theft stemming from their use of the facility.
- F. Penalties for Code of Conduct violations may include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - 1. Verbal warning from official or Facility Supervisor
 - 2. Forfeiture of point(s) or game(s)
 - 3. Ejection
 - 4. Suspension
- G. Ejection from game = Automatic 7-day (minimum 1 game) suspension from all leagues and a \$25 reinstatement fee (or three hours of documented community service). The League Director must authorize player reinstatement.
- H. A player or team expelled from the league will not receive a refund.

USA Volleyball Beach Rules - Differences from Indoor Rules

1. **You switch sides within games.**
2. **Stricter calling of sets on the first ball (Co-Ed A, Women's A Leagues).** Outdoors, it is illegal to double contact the first ball if the ball is not hard-driven and if "finger action" is used. Indoors, it's now legal to double contact any first team contact, which has led to some ugly, yet legal handling of free balls and serves. Outdoors, it is conceivable (but unlikely) that a serve could legally be "set" by the receiving team, however, this contact is judged with the same scrutiny as a normal set (not double contacted, etc.).
3. **Restriction on setting the ball over the net.** Indoors, there are no restrictions on this action. An exception is made for sets to a teammate that happens to get blown over the net.
4. **No open hand tips/dinks.** Alternatives include palms, heel of the hand, locked straight fingers, knurled fingers, or the back of the hand.
5. **No center line.** There is no center-line in outdoor volleyball. You can penetrate under the net provided you do not interfere with your opponent.
6. **Lower ball pressure.** Outdoor ball pressure is 2.5-3.2psi. Indoor balls are much harder at 4.3-4.6psi.
7. **No position or back-row faults.** Players can start and play anywhere. Only the service order must be obeyed. This conveniently removes all concern about back row attacks/blocks.