

Whitworth Intramurals: Outdoor Volleyball Rules

Outdoor Volleyball Rules

Teams: Players must sign up through Fusion IM, and be registered and paid to be eligible to participate. No exceptions.

Game Time: Both teams must have a minimum of one representative on the court/field at game time. Teams must meet the minimum roster requirements by 5 minutes after the scheduled game time.

Minimum Roster Requirement: 2 players

Maximum Roster Requirement: 12 players

Game Structure:

Games are played best 2 out of 3, first two games are to 25 points, and the third game is played to 15, all games are win by two. There is no point cap.

Equipment:

Volleyballs will be provided by intramural referees. Knee pads are allowed, but not required. Non-marking shoes are required for play.

Scheduling:

All games will be scheduled on Fusion IM and played on the grass on the west portion of The Loop, between the HUB and McEachran Hall. Please see "Section 7" of the IM policy regarding rescheduling, defaults, forfeits and no-shows. Be sure to update your team time preferences prior to the start of the season.

*Outdoor Volleyball will be moved to Court 3 if games need to be adjusted for special events or inclement weather.

Game Play:

General:

1. Be respectful of the players on your team, the opposing team, and the officials.
 - a. Officials have the right at any time to ask a player to be more respectful or to leave the gym/court if their behavior is inappropriate or disrespectful.
2. **As a general rule – Competitive games will be called tighter than recreational games.**
3. During each rally, each team can only contact the ball three times.
 - a. The only exception being a touch off the block, after which that team has the opportunity to contact the ball three more times following the block.
 - i. The player who had made the contact on the block is allowed to touch the ball again as one of the three touches.
4. It is illegal to double hit the ball, including double tapping the ball on a set.
 - a. The only exception is after a block.
5. It is illegal to carry the ball.
 - a. A carry by definition is a catch and release of the ball.
 - b. Prolonged contact is considered a carry (up to referee interpretation).
 - c. Players can protect themselves from getting called on a carry for a ball below their waist if they close their fists (doesn't always work, but a good general practice).
6. The volleyball is not allowed to touch, go outside of, or go over the antenna.
 - a. If the ball does these, it is considered out.
7. Players must roll balls under the net, they are not allowed to overhand throw over the net.
8. Outdoor Volleyball does involve playing in various weather conditions. Games will only be moved inside if weather becomes a hazard, meaning that players need to be prepared to play in wind, rain and sunshine.
 - a. IM staff recommends coming prepared with a sunglasses, jackets and gloves, depending on the weather conditions. It is the decision of the IM staff on the field to determine if weather is considered hazardous.

Plays at the net:

1. Players are never allowed to touch the net during play. If they touch the net before the ball hits the ground, then it is the other team's point.
 - a. Any contact with the net is considered to be in the net, game play stops with a whistle from the referee.
 - b. Players who make contact with the net after the ball hits the ground will still receive their point, but will also receive a warning as going into the net is a safety hazard.
2. Players are also not allowed to go under the net, this is also safety hazard.
 - a. The midline under the net is a mutual zone. Players are allowed to step on the line, but if their foot is completely over the line, then the other team gets the point.
 - b. This includes players who jumped for an attack and land on the other side of the midline, or for players who dive to dig a ball and slide under the net. If any part of the body crosses the midline, it is considered a fault.
3. "Roofing", or reaching beyond the net is illegal.
 - a. By definition, roofing is an interference where a defending player or blocker makes contact on a playable ball while it is still on the other side of the net.
 - i. Typically, this will occur on a first or second hit where the offensive team still has one more hit to get the ball over the net but is interfered from making a play on the ball by the defensive team.
 - b. Interference depends on the spot of the volleyball above the net.
 - c. If any part of the volleyball is over the net, there is no interference. The ball has to be completely on one side or another for interference to be called.

Serves:

1. Everyone is required to serve, unless subbed out for.
 - a. Players rotate clockwise when they get the ball and must stay in the same order throughout the game.
 - i. If a player were to be subbed out, the substitute would take the spot of that specific player in the order, but that position would still be required to serve and play either front or back row depending on the rotation.
 - ii. Players can only be subbed for if a team has 7 or more eligible players.
2. Teams do not need to rotate on the first serve if they started the game receiving.
3. When serving the volleyball, you must not cross the service line on the end of the court until after the volleyball is contacted. Serves must be contacted with one hand (no feet).
 - a. Recreational: is allowed one full step over the line until playoffs. In playoffs, they will receive a warning for the first time they step on the line and lose a point for each time a player steps on the line after the warning.
 - i. Warning goes for both teams!
 - b. Competitive: is never allowed to step on the line. There are no warnings.
4. If a player tosses a ball to serve but does not hit it, then it is a re-do. This is only allowed once per point, the second time it is a loss of a point.
5. It is illegal to block/attack a serve.
 - a. This means that once the ball is served, a player on the opponent's team cannot jump in front of the ten-foot line and attack the ball either with one or two hands.
 - b. This includes setting it back over the net. Anything that involves the player's hands at chest level and higher will be considered an attack.

Foot Plays:

1. It is legal to contact the ball with a foot as long as that foot is touching the ground (either heel or toes).
2. The contact is illegal if any part of the foot is not touching the ground.
3. The cut-off point for contact with the leg to be considered a kick is at the knee and higher.
 - a. Anything below the knee will be considered kicking the ball.
4. Players are not allowed to kick the balls during warm-ups or when giving the ball to the other side. This is both a safety concern and to prevent damage to the volleyballs.

Back-Row Attacks:

1. Back-row attacks are not allowed.
2. These are when someone who is playing in the back row jumps on or over the 10-foot line.
 - a. If the player jumps before they step on the line, then it is considered legal.
3. Exceptions:
 - a. Team has 5 players, 1 person in the back row is allowed to hit front row.
 - b. Team has 4 players (or less), everyone is allowed to hit front row.

Substitutions:

1. Teams are allowed to substitute without notifying the referee.
2. Substitutions are only allowed during dead balls. No substitute can enter the game after the ball has been served and a volley is in progress.

Timeouts:

1. Teams are allowed 1 timeout per game, timeouts do not carry over to other games.

Blood Rule:

Any player who is bleeding must be substituted for until the bleeding stops. An intramural staff member has the authority to remove the player. If by removing the player who is bleeding the team falls below the minimum number necessary to play, the following will apply: The game clock will stop and five (5) minutes will be allowed for the player to stop the bleeding. Any blood on the court must be removed using proper methods and bloodied clothing must be changed. AN INTRAMURAL STAFF MEMBER MUST APPROVE THE PLAYER TO REENTER AND HAS THE AUTHORITY TO PREVENT REENTRY. Players who refuse to leave the game due to bleeding could potentially face suspension.

Protest Policy:

Teams have the option of protesting any application or misinterpretation of a rule. No protest of a judgment call will be considered. When a team requests a protest, they must call a timeout and the game must be stopped and no further game action should continue. The concern must be brought to the attention of the referees, who will check the ruling, have deliberation and then make a decision. If the call is overturned, the team is not charged with a timeout. If the initial official's ruling is upheld, the team is charged with a timeout. Game play will then continue as normal. If the team determines to continue challenging the call, a formal request can be made by filling out the Protest Form and submitting to the IM coordinator *within 24 hours of the game*. See the Participant Manual posted on the Whitworth Intramurals website or by speaking to an IM staff member.

