

Stonewall Volleyball Rules



Stonewall Volleyball Baltimore will operate under the competition rules and regulations as outlined in the [2023 -2025 Indoor Rules Book](#) as adopted by USA Volleyball. The rules below are specific to Stonewall Volleyball Baltimore and supersede the rules in the USA Volleyball Rules Book. For diagrams of play please refer to [Wilson's](#) website.

1. Match Time and Number of Sets

- a. Each match will be allotted 45 minutes for play. We ask that all members be respectful of time. Please be assembled and ready to play at least 5 minutes prior to your scheduled match time to warm-up and hear any match updates.
- b. Each match will be played as the best of 3 sets. The first two sets of a match will be played to 25, utilizing rally scoring. If a third set is necessary, it will be played to 15 utilizing rally scoring.
- c. The first team in a set to score 25 points (or 15 for the 3rd set) will be the winner of that set.
- d. If the set score reaches 24-24, the first team to reach a two-point advantage (e.g., 26-24) will be the winner of that set. Scoring is capped at 27 points for the first 2 sets and 17 points for the third set.
- e. If a match reaches the time limit (45 minutes) before the completion of the deciding set, the match will end and the team with the most points will be declared the winner of that set.
- f. A new set may not begin after the 45-minute mark; if teams are tied 1–1 at 45 minutes, the match ends in a tie.

2. Net Height

- a. As a co-ed recreation league, Stonewall Volleyball Baltimore will use a net height at or very near 7'9 5/8".

3. Team Composition

- a. A team may consist of up to 10 members including the captain.
- b. A team must have at least one non-cisgender male on the team.
- c. Only team members that are registered and paid members of Stonewall Volleyball Baltimore are eligible to play on a team. If a non-registered player is

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used during a match, the opposing team may notify the designated Stonewall Board member and the match will be forfeited.

- d. A team must have at least 4 players present to play a match. Teams will be given a 5-minute grace period to present at least 4 players after the scheduled start time of the match. If at least 4 players are not present following the 5-minute grace period, the team forfeits the match. After the forfeit has been recorded, the teams may choose to play a friendly scrimmage match if both captains agree.
- e. A player arriving late may enter the rotation only if a complete rotation has not occurred in the current set. If the team has fully rotated through, the late player may join in the subsequent sets.
- f. In accordance with the recreational nature of Stonewall Volleyball, all players need to rotate through all sets. Captains are responsible for ensuring that their rotations are fair and consistent. Deliberately excluding a player from a rotation for a competitive advantage will result in a red card for the team captain.

4. The Uniform

- a. Every player must wear their current-season Stonewall Volleyball shirt.
- b. Shirts may be modified for comfort, but the Stonewall logo and any other sponsor logos must not be altered or obscured in any way.
- c. All players must wear athletic shoes appropriate for the surface at all times.
- d. Kneepads and other protective equipment are not required but are recommended.

5. Playoffs/Final Tournament

- a. At the conclusion of the regular season, a final tournament will be held. The seeding and structure for the tournament will be announced following the final week of regular play.
- b. The seeding for the tournament will be determined by the final standing from the regular season per division.

6. Season Standings

- a. Each week league management will update the league standings.
- b. League standings are determined first by a team's win-loss record and then by overall point differential.

7. Referees/Line Judges

- a. Each team must have at least two (2) members eligible to serve as line judges.

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- b. Captains are responsible for ensuring that assigned line judges are present, familiar with the rules and hand signals, and fully attentive to the match.
- c. Line judges are to be attentive to play and should not be distracted by cell phones, other players, etc.

8. Forfeits and Scoring

- a. If a team is assigned a forfeit for a match due to failure to present a full team at match time, the scores for that match will be 25-15 for the first two sets and 15-5 for the third set.
- b. If a team is assigned a forfeit due to the inability to provide the assigned line judges for a match, the score for that match will be 25-0 for the first two sets and 15-0 for the third set.

9. Player Conduct

- a. If a player exhibits any behavior that deliberately subverts league rules or the mission of Stonewall Sports Baltimore, verbal warnings and/or removal from the match can be issued by the referee.
- b. Captains may discuss a play with the designated Stonewall Board member for the purpose of clarification or explanation of what was observed. The designated Stonewall Board member may discuss these plays with the line judges, but captains may not approach line judges directly.

10. Playing Rules

- a. Any contact with the net is the loss of a point, unless a ball or person driven into the net causes the contact.
- b. A block is not counted as a team hit. The first hit after a block may be executed by any player, including the one who touched the ball during the block.
- c. Back row players can only attack the ball above the net if they take off from behind the 10-foot line.
- d. Completely crossing the center line is a violation; Partially crossing the center line is not a violation unless there is interference with the opponent.
 - i. During the outdoor season, there is no center line violation. As long as there is no interference with the opposing player, any and all parts of the body are allowed to cross the center line.
- e. The ball can hit the net on the serve as long as it still lands on the other side of the net. Otherwise, it is a loss of point.
- f. If the ball hits the wall, it is considered out.

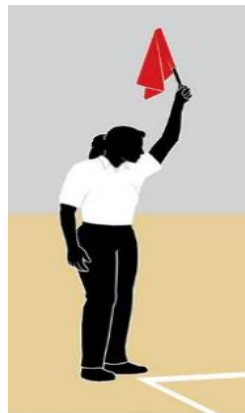
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- g. If the ball hits the ceiling and is played by the same team that hit the ball, play can continue. If the ball hits the ceiling and then crosses the net, the play is over.
- h. You must serve after the whistle is blown.
- i. Team captains will rock-paper-scissors to determine the choice of serving first or choosing a side for the first game.
- j. Teams will switch sides every set and the team who did not serve in the previous game will serve to start the next game.

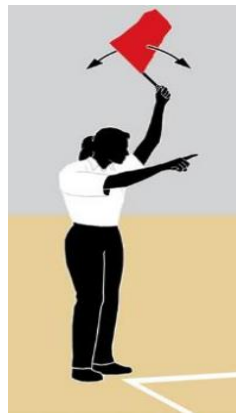
11.Line Judge Basics



Inbounds



Out of bounds



**Service line fault/
Antenna violation**



Touch



**View of play
blocked**