

CITY OF BIG RAPIDS
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION
VOLLEYBALL
RULES/REGULATIONS Revised 1/2009

The Big Rapids Recreation Volleyball program was designed to offer citizens an opportunity to participate in an organized recreational activity. Please remember that recreation is our primary goal! The officials we contract are not professionals, but they will work hard to be fair and consistent.

I. Policies and Regulations:

- A. Players must be 18 years old or a high school graduate. All players must be registered on the team's league roster in which they are playing for.
 - Note: Individuals that are not 18 years old or a high school graduate and wish to play, may petition the Recreation Director for possible approval.
 - Penalty:
 - ✓ Games in which the ineligible player took part would be forfeited to the opponent.
 - ✓ Ineligible players must petition the Recreation Director before re-entering play.
- B. All team players will be required to sign in at the pre-game meeting each match. Rosters will be checked weekly for ineligible players.
 - Penalty: Same as above (I.A.).
- C. Players may play for two teams in the same season for the same sport with approval from the Recreation Director. The two teams must be in different divisions.
 - Note: This does not apply to post-season play-offs. Request forms are available at the gym or the Recreation Office.
- D. Players within the past four years that were/are college varsity volleyball players (including "red shirts"), or college club team players are allowed to play with approval from the Recreation Director. Teams must remain compatible with the division they are playing in. Compatibility is the Recreation Director's decision. Request forms are available at the gym or the Recreation Office.
- E. For safety and security reasons, children under the age of 12 will not be allowed in the gymnasium or school while adult recreation programs are in operation. Adults that bring children will be requested to take those children home before they may continue to participate or must have a non playing adult sit with the children.
- F. Doing anything the Supervisor deems would be damaging to the facilities will result in an ejection from the match being played or the next match to be played. A second violation will bring a two match suspension.
- G. Glass or Canned beverages will not be allowed in the Gymnasiums.
- H. All alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited. Any player bringing alcohol into the facility will be suspended for one year. Any player who is intoxicated will not be allowed to participate.

- I. **Use of tobacco in any form is prohibited in all Big Rapids Public School facilities. NO SMOKING or CHEWING TOBACCO ALLOWED!!**
- J. Proper footwear is necessary for play. Bare feet, socks, street shoes, or hard-soled shoes are prohibited.
- K. No hats allowed during play.
- L. A cast, guard or brace deemed dangerous or giving an unfair advantage, will not be permitted.
- M. Park in appropriate areas. Violators risk being ticketed and/or towed at the owner's expense.
- N. Cancellations, postponements, and facility shutdowns will be announced on WYBR (102.3 FM), WBRN (100.9 FM). Team captains will be notified if time permits.
- O. When necessary, suspensions will carry over to following seasons and/or other recreation programs.
- P. Any individual causing damage to any facility, equipment, or supplies will be billed and suspended from all recreation programs until damages are repaired and bills are paid.
- Q. **Fees:** Captains are personally responsible for all team fees. If teams wish to withdraw, after schedules have been set, the captain will be responsible for the total fee. Nothing will be reimbursed.
- Teams with delinquent fees (fees not paid in total by the given deadline) will forfeit games until fees are paid. If the fees are not paid by the post season tournament the team will be dropped from the league.
 - Captains that have delinquent fees will be suspended from any City operated recreation program for a period of two years. The suspension will begin on the ending date of the season the delinquent fees occurred. If the fees are paid in full, within the two year suspension the captain will be eligible to participate upon payment.
- R. At the end of the season, first and second place will be determined by:
- Winning percentages.
 - Head-to-head competition.
 - Play-off match. (best-of-three)
- S. All other positions will be determined by:
- Winning percentages.
 - Head-to-head competition.
 - Points scored and allowed differential in head-to-head.
- T. Points scored and allowed differential in all games.
- U. Flip of the coin.

- V. **Add & Drop Players:** Teams wishing to drop and/or add players may do so by obtaining a "Roster Change Form" from recreation staff or the recreation office. Players that are added to team rosters have a seven day waiting period from the time the "Roster Change Form" is received by the recreation office. Once a team drops a player from their roster that player can not play for that team for the remainder of the season. A dropped player may be added to another roster. Under ordinary circumstances, additions will not be permitted after the seventh match of season play. In case of an emergency, contact the Recreation Director about additions.
- W. The Big Rapids Public Schools are not responsible for lost, stolen, or misplaced articles of clothing, jewelry, equipment, etc...

II. Playing Rules:

- A. **Forfeit/Normal Game Times Unless Noted Differently**
- Sunday: First game starting time: 2:00pm Last game starting time 9:00pm
 - No warm up time is required if matches are running behind.
 - **FORFEITS:**
 - ✓ Game time is forfeit time for game #1*. Forfeit time for remaining games will be in five minute intervals. However, teams may begin play with as few as four players.
- * A two minute grace period is allowed because of differences in time keeping devices.
- B. **Playing Sites and Courts**
- Big Rapids Middle School – North Court (MS-N), South Court (MS-S)
- C. **Pre-game Meeting**
- At the pre-game meeting, the game official shall, along with team representatives, determine court and serve choices. After the first game, teams shall alternate serves and courts.
- D. **Match Play**
- Scoring will be rally scoring to 25, must win by 2. Rally scoring equals a point scored every time the whistle is blown dead. Regular season match play shall be a four game match with all games counted for the win/loss record. Post-season play may be a combination of either a best-of-three match, or best-of-five match.
- E. **Timeouts**
- Each team will be allowed one time-out per game in regular season play.
- F. **Service**
- Let Serve: "Let Serve" is a ball that when served, hits the net without touching the net antenna and continues across the net into the opponent's court. The let serve is a playable live ball. The let serve is a strategy used to keep the game moving with fewer interruptions in play.
 - Type of serve per division:
 - ✓ All divisions may serve underhand, sidearm, overhand, round house, or jump serve.
 - ✓ A vote of the woman's league division 6, has determined no overhand serve.

- The server must wait for the official to blow the whistle before serving the ball.
 - ✓ Penalty: A team warning shall be issued once per match for the first violation.
 - ✓ On the second violation, a side-out will be declared.
- The server may serve anywhere from the back of the court. The server may not enter the court or leave the serving area, until contact has been made with the ball.
- Divisions 1-4 may set the serve (receiving team's first hit being a set), official will make calls on double hits. Divisions 5-7 may not set the serve.
- Screening is illegal. The serving team may not block the view of the receiving team.
- Overlapping is illegal. Both teams must be in their proper rotation at the time of the serve.

G. Rotation and Substitutions

- All divisions may use the 3/12 sub rule, or players must rotate in to the center back position when their team gains possession of the ball on a side-out. When playing with less than six (6), only one (1) player may rotate in per possession of serve.
 - ✓ **Note:** Captains should notify the official at the beginning of each game as to which rule they are using. A copy of the rule is available in gym.
- Teams may start with 4 players.
- **Coed:** Teams cannot play with more males than females but are allowed more females than males if necessary. Exception; If only one female is present for the 1st game of the match, team is allowed to play with three males and one female with the other games forfeited if another female is not present when the 2nd game begins.
- There must be at least one male to keep it a coed team.
- The serving order and positions on the court at service shall be male & female alternated or vice-versa. When playing with five players, two women may be next to each other.

H. Volley Play

- All players must be within the playing court boundary until the server makes contact with the ball.
- A player may go outside the playing court boundary while the ball is in play.
- Any ball coming to a momentary rest in a player's palm or open hand shall be considered a carry, lift, or throw. All are illegal hits.
- During the first hit of the team (not blocking), the ball may contact various parts of the body consecutively, provided that the contacts occur during one action.
- Blocking a serve is illegal.
- Spiking a serve is illegal.
- Balls that hit the ceiling during volley play may be played providing the ball stays on the attacking team's side of the net and they have hits remaining.
 - ✓ **Note:** For point of clarification, any basketball backboard in a raised position is considered to be part of the ceiling.
- A served ball that hits the ceiling may not be played. It will be whistled dead and side-out will be declared.
- Balls that hit any wall attachments, banners, backboards, rims, or passes through the rim will be considered out of play. The ball will remain in play if it simply brushes a basketball net. (The only exception to this rule will be situations at the west end of the BRMS courts. The official will decide if the ball is in play.)
- To be considered in play, the ball must pass over the net completely within the antennas or their imaginary continuation to the ceiling.

- **Coed:** When the attacking team uses 2 or 3 hits to return the ball over the net, one of those hits must be by a female player (i.e. one male - one female, two males - one female, two females - one male, all females). If the ball is hit once and returned over the net it can be by male or female. This keeps the league coed.

I. **Net Play:**

- A player shall not contact any part of the net while the ball is in play. Exception: Hair
- A ball may be played from the net.
- In returning the ball, a player may follow through over the net, providing s/he first contacts the ball above or on their side of the net.
- A player may touch the floor across the center line or the out-of-bounds extension with one or both feet, provided, a part of the foot remains on the center line. Contacting the floor across the center line with any other part of the body is illegal. The center line does not extend beyond the posts.

J. **Blocking:**

- Blocking a ball which is entirely on the opponent's side of the net is permitted when the opposing team has had an opportunity to complete its attack. The attack is considered complete when:
 - ✓ The attacking team has completed its three hits.
 - ✓ The attacking team has had the opportunity to spike the ball or, in the official's judgment, directs the ball with intent to return it over the net.
 - ✓ The ball is falling near the net, and in the official's judgment, no member of the attacking team could make a play on the ball.
- When only one male player is in the front line at service, one male back line player may be forward of the attack line for the purpose of blocking.
- Male back line players shall be governed the same by all other rules when playing the ball in other than blocking actions.
- If a male back line player is used, said player must signal (raised hand) to the officials prior to the serve so that it is clear who will be coming forward to block. The other male back line player must stay behind the attacking line anytime the male back line blocker is taking part in a block or is in a blocking position.
- No female back line player may participate in a block.

K. **Rescheduled Games**

Matches/Games will be rescheduled for the following reasons:

- Inclement weather or facility problems.
- An emergency due to accidents, death, etc...

III. Unsportsmanlike Conduct (Individual Sanctions): **YELLOW AND RED CARDS**

Unsportsmanlike conduct **will not** be tolerated. All officials will be provided with yellow and red cards. It is the official's decision as to what they feel warrants sanctions.

Yellow Cards: Warning

Red Cards: Ejection from match/evening.

The following acts of team members are subject to sanction:

1. Challenging officials concerning their decisions.

2. Using profane language or gestures toward other players or staff.
3. Crossing the vertical plane of the net with any part of the body with the purpose of distracting an opponent while the ball is in play.
4. Strikes, attacks, or threatens an opponent, official or spectator.
5. Does damage to any facility, or equipment.
6. Yells, screams, etc. with the purpose of distracting an opponent while playing.