Welland Volleyball League Official Rules

Game Rules

- Each match will have 3 sets. Each match includes a 5-minute warm up, followed by up to 55-minutes of game play.
- All sets go to 25 pts. Must win by 2pts, cap at 27pts. EXCEPT the 3rd game which may end due to time purposes
- Teams will be awarded 1 pt for each winning match (ie. 2/ 3 matches won = 2 pts). Division standings are based on total points per team.
- All Ontario Volleyball Association (OVA) rules will apply except: **Recreational Divisions** will have 5 serve limit and jump serves and spiking (arm swing with a jump) are **NOT** allowed.
- 1 time-out (30-second) permitted per team per set
- Teams must play with a **minimum of 4 players on the court at all times**. A team with less than 4 players will forfeit the game (see forfeit section in the additional rules section).
  Co-ed Divisions: if playing with 4 players, there may be no more than two male players on the court at all times.
- If a team has only 3 players, the team may pick up another player (1 player max.) from within the division to prevent a forfeit.
- **Co-ed Divisions:** If a coed team is short players, teams are allowed to play with a maximum of three male players and a minimum of two female players on the court only *five* times during league play only (this excludes playoffs). A team may be allowed to play with more than three females only when agreed to by the opposing team.
- Players must be 18 years or older to play in the league.
- Teams are allowed to add a max of 15 players to their roster.
- A player can be added to the team roster at any time prior to playoffs. A player can only be on 1 roster per division for the whole season.
- **League waivers** must be signed by all players prior to playing.
- **Attendance** will be taken weekly by the scorekeeper and the team captains to enforce player playoff eligibility.
- **Tie-Breaker for Standings to Determine Playoff Seed:** In the event of a tie in the standings, the tie breaker will be first determined by total match wins over the season. If there is still a tie, it will then be determined by head-to-head matches and lastly, it will be determined by points for/against (+/ -).
- **Playoff Eligibility for Players:** Players must play a minimum of 5 games in the season to qualify for playoffs. If a team only has 4 players or less for playoffs due to special circumstances (ex. injury, illness or pregnancy…etc.) a team can sub in 1 player (max) from an eliminated team within the division, with executive approval. Executive approval must be submitted by the end of your last game or your request will be denied, except in extenuating circumstances.

- **Playoffs Co-ed Divisions Only:** Teams must play with three (3) males and three (3) females on the court. A league executive and/or referee may grant exceptions only in extenuating circumstances, at their discretion.
- **Playoffs Format:**
  Best two out of three matches will win the game.
  First two matches: Game to 25. Must win by 2pts, cap at 27pts.
  Third match: Game to 15. Must win by 2pts, cap at 17pts.
- **Team Captains:** Each team must have a reliable captain to be the team representative. It is the responsibility of the captain to ensure that their players abide by all league rules, notify the league of any forfeits, ensure that their team's attendance sheet/ waiver is completed correctly for each game/player, abide by the league's code of conduct and ensure their players also abide by the code of conduct, submit any incidents/complaints on their team's behalf to the league executive using the Incident Report Form, and keep their teams informed of all information from the league/executive team. If the team's captain changes, the team must inform the executive team as soon as possible via email coordinator@wellandvolleyball.ca.
- Each team must have a representative at any league meeting called by a WVL executive.
- No children (under 16 years of age) are permitted in the gym. This is a rule set down by the School Board. There will be no exceptions. Violations to this rule will result in loss of the league's permit.
- All referee's calls are final. Only the captain is allowed to ask for clarification of a call.
- I**ncidents/Complaints:** Any incidents/complaints must be submitted using the *Incident Report Form* (located on our website) and emailed to the coordinator@wellandvolleyball.ca within 72 hours to be addressed. The executive team will have 30 days to respond, if a response is required.
- Please see the OVA Handbook for more information and visit their website for the most up to date information: https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/

Code of Conduct

- Any unsportsmanlike conduct towards any person will not be tolerated.
- All players and spectators are expected to display respect for the rights, dignity and worth of all athletes, captains, officials, scorekeepers, executive members, volunteers, and spectators at all times.
- Any disorderly conduct will be handled by the referee and/or a league executive (if the executive member is present during the time of the incident).
- Captains will be directed to remove the offending player from the court and will be asked to leave the premises. Refusal to remove the offending player will result in the ending of the game with the offending player's team forfeiting all matches for that game.

- Captains and Referees will complete the WVL Incident Report form to submit to the Executive Team within 72 hours of the incident. The executive team will have 30 days to respond, if a response is required
- Any violation of the code of conduct can result in the individual and/or team suspension or expulsion from the Welland Volleyball League as determined by the Welland Volleyball Executive Team. All executive team decisions are final.
- If at any time during a game if there are any concerns with the opposing team players, the team captain will address the issue with the other team captain with the presence of the official as soon as possible. If the issue has not been resolved by the end of the game, the captain must forward their concerns to the executive team by completing the incident report form (located on the league website) via email coordinator@wellandvolleyball.ca for review.

Abuse and Misconduct Policy

- **Verbal Abuse:** Verbal abuse, harassment, threats, or intimidation directed toward any player, official, volunteer, executive member, or spectator will result in an automatic suspension of a minimum of two (2) games. Additional disciplinary action, including longer suspensions or removal from the league, may be imposed at the discretion of the Executive Team. In determining the appropriate penalty, the Executive Team will consider the severity of the incident, the circumstances surrounding the incident, and the individual's history of previous offenses. Repeat offenders will be subject to progressively more severe disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the league.
- **Physical Abuse:** Any act of physical abuse or violence directed toward any player, official, volunteer, executive member, or spectator will result in an automatic one (1) year suspension from the league and all affiliated tournaments, effective from the date of the incident. Additional disciplinary action, including permanent removal from the league and its affiliated tournaments, may be imposed at the discretion of the Executive Team.

League Cancellations

- Notification of game cancellations due to weather or permit cancellations will be:
    - By sent via text to team captains
    - Posted on the league facebook page
    - Posted on the league website www.wellandvolleyball.ca
- Cancellations will be for all games for that night.
- Cancelled nights will be rescheduled at the discretion of the executive pending facility availability.
- Note: The league season runs from the beginning of October to the end of April. Games will not be rescheduled past April.
- Teams must show up for any rescheduled matches or the games will be forfeited.

Forfeits

- If a team knows in advance that they do not have enough players for a game (3 or less players) they must inform the executive team via text to the division coordinator and/or email coordinator@wellandvolleyball.ca at least 24 hours in advance.
- Any team who shows up with only three players or less will forfeit as follows:
    - Game 1 is forfeited after a 10-minute grace period
    - Games 2 and 3 are forfeited after 15-minute grace period
- All forfeited match points (three per game) will be awarded to the opposing team.
- Should a team forfeit more than 3 times per season, the Executive team will review the continuation and possible expulsion of this team from the league.

Gym Permit Rules

- The schedule will show that each team in turn will be scheduled to play the late games and it will be this team's responsibility to take down and put away equipment, pick up any garbage and bring the league's equipment bag to the next game.
- Teams scheduled to play the first match will be responsible for setting up the equipment, tables and chairs for the refs and scorekeepers. It is imperative that you be at the school on time for the janitors/scorekeepers to let you in.
- No children are permitted in the gym. This is a rule set down by the School Board. There will be no exceptions. Violations to this rule will result in loss of the league's permit.
- Doors to the school must not be left ajar at any time.
- Smoking and alcohol is prohibited on school premises by the Board of Education. Violations to this rule will result in loss of the league's permit. Updated: Welland Volleyball League 2025

Notice Regarding League Rule Review and Amendment Process:

- Please be advised that the rules of the Welland Volleyball League (WVL) are reviewed annually by the Executive Team. Any updates to the rules are published on the WVL website prior to the start of the upcoming volleyball season.
- Members of the Welland Volleyball League may submit proposals for rule changes between August and April. To do so, members must complete the Incident Report Form—available on our website—and submit it via email to: coordinator@wellandvolleyball.ca. Rule change proposals that do not follow this process will not be considered.
- All rule change proposals submitted during the season will be reviewed and compiled by the Executive Team. These proposals will be considered and voted on by the Executive Team during the annual review process. Please note that no rule changes will be implemented once the season has commenced.
- All decisions made by the Executive Team are final.