

## LA PORTE PARKS & RECREATION YOUTH VOLLEYBALL RULES - FALL 2021 SEASON

**DIVISIONS:** The specification for divisions will be based on a player's GRADE in the current school year. Players will be placed in one of the following 3 league divisions. All of a team's games will be played within their division only.

1. ELEMENTARY DIVISION (4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> GRADE) – 4 TEAMS
2. 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE DIVISION – 4 TEAMS
3. MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION (7<sup>TH</sup>-8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE) – 5 TEAMS

**ROSTERS:** Team rosters will consist of 9 – 12 players. The league coordinator will attempt to form teams as evenly as possible in terms of the number of players on each roster. Most requests were granted but it is impossible to grant 100% of the player requests made.

### UNIFORMS:

1. The league will provide player jerseys that must be worn for games.
2. Shorts/bottoms do not have to match.
3. No jewelry (other than stud earrings) is allowed. The game official may ban any jewelry, equipment or accessory that they deem as unsafe or illegal.
4. Kneepads are highly recommended but are not required for play.
5. Athletic shoes with non-marking soles are required for play.

**RULES:** All divisions will follow NFHS Middle School Rules with the exceptions below.

**EQUIPMENT:** All divisions will use a Volley Lite ball. Practice & game balls will be provided.

**THE COURT:** The net will be approximately 7'4" high for all divisions. The court will be full regulation size.

### THE GAME:

1. Games are played 6 on 6. Teams must have at least 5 players to begin the match. If a team does not have at least 5 players present after a 5-minute grace period (after game time), that team will forfeit the first set of the match. If the team does not have at least 5 players 15 minutes after game time, they will forfeit the entire match. If a match is forfeited, the remaining players on each team may "scrimmage" up until the 15-minute mark before the next scheduled match, but it will not be officiated or scored.
2. The ball may be served from anywhere behind the 23' line (basketball free throw line) in the Elementary and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Divisions only. The Middle School Division must serve from behind the normal service back line.

3. In all divisions, after 5 consecutive points scored by the team serving, the referee will whistle for an automatic change of possession and the opposing team will be awarded the serve.
4. Serves may be underhand or overhand for all divisions.
5. If the server commits a bad toss, the ball can be caught or let drop to the floor. The server is only allowed one bad toss per serve attempt. In the event of a second consecutive bad toss, the serve shall be awarded to the opposing team without any points scored.
6. Each team may call ONE 1-minute timeout during each set of the match.
7. A coin toss will be conducted between a "captain" from each team and the official to determine which team will serve/receive to begin the first set. The winner of the coin toss will serve first. The loser of the coin toss will receive and have choice of court side. The second set will be the opposite of the first. For the third set, another coin toss will be held to determine which team serves first.

#### **SCORING:**

1. All divisions will play 3 sets per match, even if one team wins the first 2 sets.
2. Rally point scoring (a point is scored on every play).
3. First two sets will play to 25 points, must win by 2 points, but will be capped at 30 points. The third set will be played to 15 points, must win by 2 points, but will be capped at 20 points.
4. Any forfeited set will be scored 15-0 in favor of the team that does not forfeit.
5. Standings (Total Sets Won vs Total Sets Lost) will be kept during the season by the league coordinator.

#### **POSITIONS & SUBSTITUTIONS:**

1. Positions (6) are: left front, middle front, right front, right back, middle back, and left back.
2. Players must rotate clockwise and substitute each time their team is awarded a new side-out (change of serve to their team).
3. Substitutions may only be made when a team is rotating unless a player is injured or permanently removed from the match.
4. Players must substitute in/out of the middle back position.
5. **Teams must keep the exact same player rotation order throughout the entire match so that all players receive "equal" playing time. NO FREE SUBSTITUTIONS or changing rotation after a set.**
6. Server = right back position. The server may move anywhere along the service line in order to serve. The server will rotate out on the next rotation.
7. There will be no use of a libero.

**CONDUCT:** Poor sportsmanship exhibited by players or coaches will not be tolerated. Game officials shall use the following guidelines when dealing with poor or disrespectful conduct:

1. First occurrence = Warning
2. Second occurrence = Point awarded to the opposing team
3. Third occurrence = Point awarded to the opposing team + ejection from the match.

If a player or coach is ejected, they are subject to review by the league coordinator and face possible suspension for the next match, or even the remainder of the season.