

PLAY **LAWTON**

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL **RULE BOOK**

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2023 EDITION

PURPOSE

This program is designed to give children an opportunity to play sports under good adult supervision. The primary goal of the program is the molding of good character; winning and the attainment of exceptional athletic skills are secondary.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

Every team in the program should designate a Manager who serves as an organizer and contact person for that team. Their primary responsibility is to obtain competent coaches.

All persons accepting responsibility in this program must strive to teach good sportsmanship, good health habits, and good citizenship. They should exercise the type of behavior that will set a good example for players and follow the rules and regulations. Embarrassment of any player or team must be avoided. Abuse of players will not be tolerated. All coaches should strive to practice and play all players on their team. The participants should be exposed to all game conditions, regardless of wins or losses.

Play Lawton does not issue cash refunds. We do not consider refunds unless a program or event is canceled and is not rescheduled.

COACHES

We want to take the opportunity to thank all of you fine coaches for the many hours you work with our youth. Without you, the sports programs could not possibly function so successfully.

We appreciate that you are helping to build good character traits in the children you coach. Thank you for being patient and considerate with the players, while at the same time maintaining control of your team.

We hope at the end of the season, you may evaluate your work by answering, "Yes" to the following question: "Did I build good character in the players on my team?"

This manual should be a tool to help you in the quest to build good character. We hope you will find the information helpful.

Thank you,
Play Lawton

COACHING GUIDELINES

I agree as coach or assistant coach to comply at all times with the provisions listed below:

1. **To read the “2023 Youth Volleyball Rulebook” that pertains to the sport that I am coaching and will comply with these rules.**
2. To never make abusive or insulting remarks to or about officials of the game, officials of the programs, or opposing coaches and players.
3. To hold regularly scheduled practices and that my assistants or I will be there on time
4. Not to use profanity around players or consume alcoholic beverages before or during any meeting with the players.
5. At all times I will set a good example of sportsmanship for my players, keeping in mind that the primary goal of this program is to build character. I will make the maximum effort to keep my spectators, parents and fans from harassing the game officials. I will congratulate the opponents and have my players do the same.
6. I will play all players who practice regularly and with maximum effort, as the situation permits.
7. I will never take my team off the court until the game is finished.
8. Reasons for Ejection:
 - Using profanity, insulting or vulgar language or gestures;
 - Attempting to influence a decision by an official;
 - Disrespectfully addressing an official;
 - Indicating objections to an Official's decision;
 - Using a mechanical device to attract attention;
 - Holding an unauthorized conference;
 - Failure of a team to be ready to play;
 - Failure of the head coach, following verification, to have his/her player(s) wear legal and/or required equipment;
 - Be on the playing field except as a substitute or replaced player;
 - Be outside the designated area (i.e., team/coaches box, bench or dugout);

I understand that the penalty for violation of any of the above is automatic suspension from coaching until reinstated.

GAME DISMISSAL/EJECTION

When a coach or assistant coach is dismissed or ejected from a game, said coach must contact Play Lawton to schedule a reinstatement meeting with the League Director before being permitted to participate further in the youth sports programs. It is the coach's responsibility to contact the sports office and set the meeting. A coach dismissed from a game may be penalized, by sitting out the next game, suspended for the remainder of the season or may not be reinstated to coach in Play Lawton youth sports programs.

If a player or coach is playing (coaching) in two different age divisions and is suspended in one age division; the player or coach cannot play (coach) games in the second age division due to being on suspension. While on suspension, a player cannot participate in scheduled Play Lawton activities until the suspension has been served and the player or coach is reinstated.

COACHES COURTSIDE

A maximum of three (3) coaches are allowed to be courtside.

ROSTERS

All players must be registered, paid, have a waiver signed, and be on the DaySmart Roster prior to game start. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the League Director. Players who do not meet the requirements will not play.

Playoff Rosters - players must play in a minimum of two (2) regular season games AND meet all previous roster requirements to be eligible to play in playoffs. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the League Director.

USING AN ILLEGAL PLAYER

Any coach found using illegal players on their team will be automatically suspended from coaching the remainder of the season. If the infraction accrues and/or is discovered at the end of the regular season or playoffs; the suspension will carry to the next coached sport. In addition to being suspended, the coach may also be placed on probation by the Play Lawton Management until the end of the athletic season at which time a decision will be made as to whether the coach may continue to coach in Play Lawton youth sports programs. Any game an illegal player participates in will be forfeited. It is the coach's responsibility to ensure all players are registered.

MISCONDUCT

Play lawton reserves the right to suspend any player, coach, and/or fan for misconduct of any kind. Examples of misconduct include, but are not limited to:

- Fighting
- Profanity
- Obscene gesture
- Disrespectfully addressing an official
- Objecting to an official's decision
- Improper contact with an official
- Illegal player

NOTE: If a player legally playing in two different age divisions is suspended in one age division; the player cannot participate in any games until the suspension has been served and the player is reinstated. When a player is suspended, the player is not allowed to participate in any scheduled Parks & Recreation sporting activities. That player will miss games in both age divisions until the suspension is served and the player is reinstated.

Misconduct reports will be filed with the League Director. Game Officials, Field Marshals, the League Director and/or his representative may eject a player, coach or fan from the game or game site, as he or she deems necessary. All other player ejection penalties will be imposed at the discretion of the League Director. The League Director is responsible for deciding the level of penalty imposed in cases of misconduct.

REINSTATEMENT

Coaches must be reinstated by the League Director before being permitted to participate further in the youth sports program. It is the coach's responsibility to contact the sports office and set the meeting.

ASSAULT ON AN OFFICIAL

Oklahoma Statutes

Title 21. Crimes and Punishments

§21-650.1. Athletic contests - Assault and battery upon referee, umpire, etc.

Universal Citation: 21 OK Stat § 21-650.1 (2016)

Every person who, without justifiable or excusable cause and with intent to do bodily harm, commits any assault, battery, assault and battery upon the person of a referee, umpire, timekeeper, coach, official, or any person having authority in connection with any amateur or professional athletic contest is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one (1) year or by a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

8U DIVISION

Players who turn 9 prior to August 1 of the current year are not eligible unless they are in 2nd or 3rd Grade (Grade Level Exception). Also, any player turning 10 prior to December 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 8U are eligible for this division regardless of grade.

10U DIVISION

Players who turn 11 prior to August 1 of the current year are not eligible unless they are in 4th or 5th Grade (Grade Level Exception). Also, any player turning 12 prior to December 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 10U are eligible for this division regardless of grade.

12U DIVISION

Players who turn 13 prior to August 1 of the current year are not eligible unless they are in 6th or 7th Grade (Grade Level Exception). Also, any player turning 14 prior to December 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 12U are eligible for this division regardless of grade.

Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the League Director. Proof must be provided in order for a player to qualify for the Grade Level Exception (GLE). **Maximum of two (2) GLE allowed per team.**

RECREATION LEAGUE PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A player must meet the age requirement for their age division. A player cannot be over the division age before the age cutoff date. Parents should consider a player's skill level of play when registering.

Recreational Leagues are for players who are learning the game and developing their skills. Recreational leagues will play seven (7) regular season games and a postseason championship tournament for top teams.

COMPETITIVE LEAGUE PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A player must meet the age requirement for their age division. A player cannot be over the division age before the age cutoff date. Parents should consider a player's skill level of play when registering.

Competitive Leagues are for players who are more skilled or have more experience. Competitive leagues will play seven (7) regular season games and a postseason championship tournament for top teams.

PLAYER MOVE UP

Players at the top of their division (10yr old in 10U or 12yr old in 12U) may play up a division. The parents or legal guardian must contact the League Director for approval prior to participating in any league games. The League Director may move players up a division to maintain competitive balance.

FREE AGENT REQUEST

Free agents will be placed on to rosters when team registration is finished. If a free agent has a specific team request they can submit it to the League Director via email or by registration note in DaySmart.

MAXIMUM TEAM SIZE

8U/10U/12U Division: 12 Players Per Team

If you have one to two players over the max team size, email programs@playlawton.com to request additional players. Your request will be reviewed and, if approved, the player(s) will be added to your roster. We recommend keeping team sizes smaller to allow for more playing time for each player.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION

Birth Certificates or Report Cards may be required to verify player eligibility if questions or concerns arise. Birth certificates made from affidavits are not acceptable unless approved by the League Director. Report cards must be from the current school year. Documents may be required on protest of eligibility. Parents should be prepared to present verification documents if requested. The player is not eligible to play until they can be verified by supporting documentation.

Protesting an Illegal Player

Only the **Head Coach** or **Team Manager** may protest the eligibility of any player on an opposing team at any time. The protest must be filed, in writing (email), with the League Director within **seven (7) days** after the supposed illegal player participated in a game. If the protest is deemed valid, it will be reviewed by the League Director. Players suspected of being ineligible will be unable to participate until their eligibility has been verified.

TIE BREAKER ANALYSIS

If there is a tie in the standings at the end of regular season play, the following tie breaker configurations will be used to break the tie or ties:

- Winning Percentage
- Head-To-Head
- Head-To-Head Set Differential
- Total Set Differential
- Lowest Number of Forfeits
- Coin Toss

COACHES

- Coaches are expected to adhere to the coaching guidelines and code of conduct outlined above.
- Coaches and Team Managers are responsible for the conduct of their players and parents.

PARENTS/SPECTATORS

Parents/spectators will be held to the same code of conduct as coaches.

Parent/Spectator/Fan Misconduct

The following punishments will be handed down if a parent/spectator/fan is thrown out of the game for misconduct (defined under 'Misconduct'):

- **FIRST STRIKE:** If a parent/spectator/fan is removed from a game for misconduct, the TEAM will receive a warning which lasts the entire season, including playoffs.
- **SECOND STRIKE:** If a parent/spectator/fan is removed from a game for misconduct, after the team has already received their first strike, the TEAM will immediately forfeit the game they are playing, resulting in a score of 2-0 for the team not forfeiting.
- **THIRD STRIKE:** If a parent/spectator/fan is removed from a game for misconduct, after the team has already received their first and second strikes, the TEAM will forfeit their remaining games for the season, and will not be eligible for playoffs, regardless of record.

ALL Misconduct will be reviewed by the League Director

BOTTOM LINE:

As a parent/spectator/fan who is passionate about the sport, your child, and/or your team. It is your right to feel emotion, for example, happiness of your team scoring a touchdown, or frustration with a call that didn't go your way. However, it is also your RESPONSIBILITY, to conduct yourself in a way that is appropriate and aligns with the purpose as stated above. Misconduct of any kind will not be tolerated.

INCLIMATE WEATHER

Visit www.facebook.com/playlawton to get game updates. Information on weather cancellations will be posted by 4:00 PM if Play Lawton staff has determined that games should be canceled. The League Director, Field Marshals, or game officials may terminate any game due to inclement weather. Games canceled due to weather, electrical issues or any other reason are not guaranteed to be made up. Every effort will be made to reschedule a canceled game.

VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE RULES

GENERAL

Play shall be governed by the current USA Volleyball Indoor Rulebook, except where modified in this rulebook.

NET HEIGHT

Net height for all divisions will be seven (7) feet.

RALLY SCORING

- Rally scoring is a method where points can be won by the serving or receiving team.
- If the serving team wins the rally, it receives a point and continues to serve.
- If the receiving team wins the rally, it receives a point and the ball for service.
- If the serving team or player is assessed a penalty, the opponent is awarded a point and the ball for service.
- It is not necessary for the winning team to be serving at the time the winning point is scored.

LET SERVE

The 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. It is a playable and live ball. The official does not need to touch the net when giving the signal to serve.

- **Rec League:** All players will get a re-serve if they fail their first serve attempt. Only one per service.

SCORING

The best two of three sets will win the match. A set will be to 15 points and the winner must win by 2 points with a cap of 20 points. The first team to reach 20 points wins the set.

TIMEOUTS

Each team is allowed a maximum of one (1), sixty (60) second timeout, per set. Unused timeouts do not accumulate over the course of a match. Additionally, game officials may call time at their own discretion.

EQUIPMENT

SHOES

All players must wear shoes. Open toe, open heel, black soled shoes or hard soled shoes will **NOT** be allowed.

BALL

Tachikara Volley-Lite Game Balls will be provided by Play Lawton

KNEE PADS

Recommended but not required.

Visit DaySmart Recreation to check your team's schedule and scores.

For questions or concerns email programs@playlawton.com