

**CITY OF MINERAL WELLS
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
YOUTH VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE RULES
Spring 2024**

I. General Information

- A. The City of Mineral Wells Parks & Recreation Department youth volleyball league teams will be registered with the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (T.A.A.F.). All coaches must pass a background check in order to coach in the Mineral Wells Parks and Recreation Department's youth volleyball program.
- B. The standings for the league tournament seeding will be determined by the win-loss records of the 18 regular season sets. Any ties will be settled by the following criteria:
 - 1st) Head-to-head competition of teams tied (head-to-head wins and losses of sets).
 - 2nd) The point differential between the teams tied.
 - 3rd) Number of forfeited games (fewest forfeit losses wins the tie breaker).
 - 4th) Total number of points for the season scored minus the total number of points allowed for the season.
 - 5th) If the above four criteria are still tied, a one set playoff to 25 points will be held to determine the places for seeding.

II. Teams/Rosters

- A. A maximum of 12 players are allowed on each team roster.
- B. Rosters may be adjusted until the end of regular (round robin) season play. No additions will be allowed after the end of regular season play going into tournament play. (If an injury, or other extenuating circumstance, causes a team to not have enough players, an exception may be made to this policy. It will be solely up to the discretion of the Parks & Recreation Superintendent if changes will be allowed. Any replacement of players to gain a competitive advantage will never be allowed. This restriction applies to City of Mineral Wells league play only.,
- C. No player may play on more than one (1) team in the same league or in different leagues per season.

III. Player Eligibility

Players must meet the following requirements in order to participate in a league:

- A. All players must have completed a registration form with the legal guardian of the participant having signed the waiver of liability.
- B. All players who play in the 14 and Under league must be fourteen (14) years of age, or younger, as of September 1, 2023.

- C. All players who play in the 12 and Under league must be twelve (12) years of age, or younger, as of **September 1, 2023**.
- D. All players who play in the 10 and Under league must be ten (10) years of age, or younger, as of **September 1, 2023**.
- E. All players who play in the 8 and Under league must be eight (8) years of age, or younger, as of **September 1, 2023**. Players in the 8U league must be at least seven (7) years of age to participate.
- F. Players may play in an older age group than their proper age group, but players may never play in a younger age group than their proper age group. No player may participate in more than one league/age group.
- G. The penalty for using an ineligible player that has not been approved by the Parks and Recreation Department will result in that team forfeiting the set(s) in which the ineligible player participated.

IV. Playing Rules

The Mineral Wells Parks and Recreation Department will adopt the playing rules of the The National Federation of High Schools and T.A.A.F. youth volleyball rules as the league's official playing rules. Any exceptions or additions to those rules are listed as follows:

- A. The coin flip will be done at the score table immediately after the third set has ended for the match scheduled in front of you. Try to have all of your players arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your scheduled match as matches may end early. The winner of the coin toss decides who serves & the team that loses the coin toss gets to choose which side of the court they want.
- B. Each match will be allotted 55 minutes. Match time is forfeit time for the first set. Forfeit time for the second set is 10 minutes after the scheduled match time. If a team still does not have enough players to begin play, the forfeit time for the third set will be twenty 20 minutes after the scheduled match time.
- C. Each **match** will consist of three (3) **sets**. 1st two sets will play to 25 points & 3rd set will play to 15 points with rally scoring. Teams must win each set by at least two (2) points (cap of 30pts for 1st two sets & 20pts for 3rd set). There will be a 20-minute time limit on 1st two sets and a 15-minute time limit on 3rd set.
- D. Teams will be allowed a one (1) minute break between each set.
- E. In the 8U league, after five (5) **consecutive** points (side point plus four serves, if no side point then 5 points) received by the offensive team (serving team), the official will whistle for an automatic side out and the opposing team will be awarded the serve. In the 10U, 12U & 14U league, there will not be a cap of how many serves that one player can have during a player rotation as server.
- F. The ball may be served anywhere behind the 10'-foot line for 8U, 23' foot line for 10U, and the back court line for 12U & 14U.
- G. The ball may be served either underhanded or overhanded.

- H. If the server does a bad toss, the ball must be caught or let it drop to the floor. The server may only let the ball drop once during her time of service. Time of service begins when the player assumes the right back position as the server and ends with their team's loss of the serve.
- I. The server will have 5 seconds to serve the ball after the whistle is blown, Otherwise, the official may award the opposing team the point and ball.
- J. Each team will be allowed two (2) 30 second time outs for the first two sets & one 30 second time out for the third set.
- K. Teams must have four (4) players to start the game.
- L. Line ups are to be turned in to the score table at least five (5) minutes before scheduled game time.
- M. Each coach should initial the official's score sheet after each match. This will ensure that all records are correct and have been accepted by both team coaches. Failure to initial the score sheet will be an indication that the team coach has accepted the score sheet and has forfeited his/her right to review. League standings will be based on the score sheets.

V. Substitutions

- A. The 8U will only substitute when rotating. All other age groups will use the one for one substitute method as per the National Federation of High Schools playing rules.
- B. Exception to substitution policy: A player may be substituted at any time in case of injury. Substitute player will move to the position of the injured player.
- C. Each player that is present on day of play will be required to play a total of one (1) full set (20 minutes) in each match. Exceptions may be made for illness or injury.

VI. Equipment/Uniforms

- A. **All players are required to wear knee pads.**
- B. Uniforms are NOT required. Any team wishing to wear matching shirts may purchase them at their own expense.
- C. The 8U and 10U leagues will play with the volleyball lite. The 12U and 14U leagues will play with an official size volleyball.
- D. No jewelry, caps, or any other objects that might interfere with the playing of the game will be allowed. The official has the discretionary right to determine what is, and what is not, allowed.
- E. There will be no use of a libero.

VII. The Court

- A. The court will be regulation size.
- B. The net shall be 6'1" for 8U division, 7'0" for 10U division, and 7'4" for 12U & 14U divisions.
- C. Parent volunteers from each team will be needed to call lines. **NO CELL PHONES!**
Minimum age of 14 years old.

VIII. Sportsmanship/Conduct

- A. Any player, coach, or fan ejected for any display of unsportsmanlike conduct will be ejected from the facility. An additional one (1) match suspension will apply. If the conditions of the misconduct warrant a more severe suspension, the Parks and Recreation Department may increase the amount of time of the suspension.
- B. Participants must accept the officials' decisions with good sportsmanlike conduct. **Only a coach may request clarification of a call made regarding rules of play. There will be no questioning of judgment calls.**
- C. **Spectators or players are not permitted to approach the score table or official at any time.** Only the coach, or assistant coach has the authority to speak with an official, or the score table, regarding the awarding of a point.

IX. Tournament Play

- A. The league championship tournaments will be double elimination tournaments unless a league only has five (5) regular season matches, in which case a three (3) match guarantee tournament may be necessary in order for each team to play at least (8) eight total matches.
- B. The tournament will be played best two (2) out of three (3) sets.
- C. The first and second set will be played to twenty-five (25) points, with a 30 pt cap.
- D. The third set, if needed, will be played to fifteen (15) points, with a 20 pt cap.
- E. The first two sets will have a time limit of 20 minutes & if needed the 3rd set will have a 15-minute limit.
- F. All sets will be played with rally scoring, the sets must be won by at least two (2) points.

X. Awards

- A. All participants will receive a participation award. First place teams in each division will receive a first-place award.

XI. Inclement weather

In case of inclement weather (i. e. ice or snow), please contact the Parks and Recreation Department @ 940-328-7803 to determine the status of games.

