***CITY OF AMARILLO***

***ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT***

***2015 WINTER VOLLEYBALL BYLAWS***

1. **ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION**
2. The playing rules for league will adhere to playing rules of U.S.A. Volleyball, [www.usavolleyball.org](http://www.usavolleyball.org), except as amended by the City of Amarillo league bylaws and policies. Anyone with questions as to policies, rules, or regulations should contact the City of Amarillo Athletic Department at 806-378-9301.
3. Good sportsmanship will be required of all league participants. Teams that register for the volleyball league accept, as a condition of participation, the following bylaws and rules and are subject to discipline as outlined herein.
4. **No refunds will be given once scheduling has commenced. No personal checks are accepted,** however, we will accept company/sponsor checks.
5. **ROSTER/LEAGUE INFORMATION**
6. Players must be on an official league roster to be eligible to participate.
7. Official roster forms are available at the Parks and Recreation Office, 509 SE 7th Ave or coaches have the option of registering online at [www.amarilloparks.org](http://www.amarilloparks.org). Rosters are due at the time fees are paid. Rosters must list a minimum of four players; mixed league rosters must have two men and two women before it will be accepted.
8. **League fee is $200 for Winter and Spring Seasons and $130 for Summer and Fall Seasons.** Entry fees and rosters will be accepted until the established deadline date, which is listed on the next to the last page of the Bylaws.
9. Men and women leagues are played on Monday or Wednesday nights. Mixed leagues are played on Tuesday or Thursday nights.
10. Men and women league rosters are allowed seven free roster slots. Mixed rosters are allowed eight free roster slots. Once the seventh or eighth slot has been filled, there is an additional $15 per player fee. Players can be removed from the roster; however, that doesn’t open a free slot.
11. Roster additions cannot be made during the last two weeks of regular season play. **Only coaches or assigned assistant coaches are allowed to make roster changes.**
12. Teams will be divided into league divisions as equally as possible by the Parks and Recreation Athletic Department. Division preference will be taken into consideration, along with all necessary information; such as previous playing experience and previous season standings.
13. Matches will be played at the Amarillo I.S.D. School Gyms in Amarillo.
14. Each season consists of 14 matches. There are playoffs for the spring season. The two teams with the best records will qualify for the playoff. All letter leagues in the same division of play (division1, division 2, etc.) will be in the same playoff bracket. T-shirts will be awarded to the first place team and the second place team in each division bracket.
15. **All coaches must supply an email address as no phone calls will be made for schedule changes unless it is a necessary last minute change. Coaches and players can also subscribe to our texting service by simply texting the word APARDVOLLEYBALL to 71441 and follow the instructions.**
16. **No alcohol or tobacco use is allowed on the premises of any Amarillo I.S.D. School Gym. Any team or player found breaking this rule will be removed from the league for the remainder of the season and two complete seasons thereafter.**
17. All players who participate in the City of Amarillo Volleyball Leagues waive and release for all time, all rights and claims for damages they may have against the City of Amarillo and the Amarillo Parks and Recreation Department for any and all injuries suffered by themselves as a result of participating in the City of Amarillo Volleyball Leagues.
18. **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**
19. Players may play in only one division and on one team in each night of offered play.
20. Roster additions have to be made known and paid for by 5 p.m. the day of the game in order for new player(s) to be legal. Roster additions cannot be made at the courts.
21. Player transfers from one team to another are not allowed unless the current player’(s) coach and the City of Amarillo Parks and Recreation Athletic Department have both approved the transfer.
22. All legal players must be listed on the roster turned in to the City of Amarillo Parks and Recreation Athletic Department. Any player found playing illegally will be suspended for three complete matches on each night that player participates. The coach will receive the same punishment. If a second offense occurs, player and coach will be suspended for six complete matches on every night the player and coach participate. The City of Amarillo Athletic Department reserves the right to check rosters to determine that all players participating are legal players. The City of Amarillo Athletic Department may check rosters and I.D.’s at the courts to determine the eligibility of team players at any time. All teams playing illegal or ineligible players will forfeit. Any player that the City of Amarillo Athletic Department suspects of playing under an assumed name will be required to produce a valid identification with a photo. Any player, when requested to produce a valid photo identification, who does not produce a valid identification which proves his eligibility will be considered an illegal player and cause his/her team to forfeit the game.
23. **ALL PLAYERS MUST BE ABLE TO PROVIDE VALID IDENTIFICATION WITH A PHOTO I.D.**
24. **All players must be 18 years of age as of the date of the volleyball match to participate in any of the City of Amarillo volleyball league(s).** Any player that is found to be under the age of 18 will cause that team to forfeit the in-progress game and the team coach will be suspended for three complete matches.
25. **GAME INFORMATION/PLAYING RULES**
26. Unsportsmanlike conduct toward any city official, referee, player or spectator, regardless of the situation, is not acceptable and, depending on severity, could be terms for suspension of the coach, player or team. Coaches and all team members are to control the tempers of their players and spectators. If not, the entire team may be punished for the actions of one or more players.
27. Any team, coach or player with a referee concern should email or physically bring their written constructive criticism to the Amarillo Parks and Recreation office.
28. At any point if a team drops below four players, the match will be forfeited against that team.
29. Each match will consist of two 15-minute games or the first team to score 25 points. Each game must be won by two points, unless time expires. The point cap is 27. If cap is reached, only one point is needed to win. For example: if the score is 26 to 26, the next point wins.
30. Rally point scoring system will be used the entire match. This means there will be one point scored every time the ball has been served. The offense will score on a defensive miss or out of bounds hit. The defense will score on an offensive miss or out of bounds hit.
31. Teams will rotate each time they win the serve. Rotation will be in a clockwise manner.
32. When rotating on the serve during mixed league play, teams must alternate male and female or vice-versa.
33. All league matches must start with a minimum of four players on each team and can have a maximum of six players on the court at one time. Women can have no men on their team at any time during the women’s league.
34. For mixed leagues, teams must have a minimum two players of each sex at match time to be able to play. Mixed teams may have the following combinations:
35. 2 men, 2 women
36. 2 men, 3 women
37. 2 men, 4 women
38. 3 men, 3 women

At no time during mixed league play can any team have more men on the court than women.

1. **Substitution Rule:** Teams must choose before each game whether they will substitute by rotation or by “rule” (as allowed in the U.S.A. volleyball rulebook). In order to substitute by “rule”, all players on the team must have numbered jerseys, in order for the referees to be able to track the substitutions. Teams substituting by rule will not be limited by the number of total substitutions, however, the substitutes and the starting players that they replaced can never play at the same time and those two players must substitute for each other for the entire game. Teams substituting by rotation can only substitute during their rotation and may never make direct substitutions or substitute by “rule” in that game, including during timeouts. Players may not drop any player from the rotation, except in the case of an injury. If a player is dropped out of the rotation due to an injury, that player may not return to participate for the rest of that game. If a player drops out of the rotation for any reason other than an injury, it is considered a rotation violation and it will be a side out and a point for the opposing team. Teams may only sub in one person on each rotation. The only exception to this rule is if the team started the game with four players and their two final players showed up late. These two players may then rotate in at the middle back and corner back positions. These two players may not rotate in to be the next to serve or the server.
2. Teams should try to be at least 10 minutes early to each match in order to keep matches running on time.
3. **Team captains are required to sign the score sheet after each match has been completed in order to assure the correct scores have been recorded. Not signing the score sheet does remove the responsibility for verifying the score. No protests will be accepted about a game score entered on the score sheet. Coaches may call to question whether the score was entered corrected by the Athletic staff, but if the score was entered according to what was written on the score sheet, what is written on the score sheet will be considered correct and final. The score sheet determines the final decision on winner and loser of the game.**
4. Jewelry cannot be worn during any volleyball match. This includes, but is not limited to, wedding bands, earrings, necklaces, bracelets and any facial piercings. **Taping over the jewelry item is not acceptable.** All rings with stones need to be removed before play so as not to damage game ball or cause injury to an opponent or team member.
5. An official game ball will be provided by City of Amarillo Parks and Recreation Department. If the teams have an alternate ball that both teams agree upon, they may use that ball.
6. The referee will make all calls that are possible. We do ask all players in all divisions to aid the referee by giving honor calls on such calls as: net touches, touching the ball and calling the line when it is not possible for the referee to make the call. If neither team can agree on the call nor the referee did not see the play in question, the referee may call for a “replay”.
7. A violation will be called anytime a referee sees a player(s) contacting the net or player(s) stepping over the center division in the Amarillo Parks and Recreation Department volleyball leagues. Referees in the Amarillo Parks and Recreation Department volleyball leagues will not rule on the relevance to the play of those calls as specified by U.S.A. Volleyball rulebook.
8. Any player, coach or referee who is bleeding or has blood on his/her uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until proper treatment can be administered. If medical care can be administered in a reasonable length of time, the player may continue to play; otherwise, the game/match will need to continue. The length of time considered will be completely up to the referee’s discretion. If a substitution is available, apply the rules of the game regarding substitution.
9. Contacting the ball by any part of the body is legal, including kicking.
10. In mixed leagues, if a team contacts the ball more than once, at least one of those contacts must be made by a female player.
11. All players must be able to provide a valid photo I.D. upon request.
12. When a player is uncontrollable and questioning the official’s call, his/her team will be charged a timeout. If this happens and there are no timeouts left to charge, a point will then be awarded to the opposing team for each encounter.
13. **PROTESTS**
14. No protests will be allowed on any official judgment call or rule interpretation. The only protests that are allowed are for **illegal or ineligible player(s)**. If a player is suspected to be illegal/ineligible, the referee must be notified and the player must provide a photo I.D. to the referee.
15. Protests of any player who was playing at the beginning of the game/set or rotated in shortly after the set/game began must be made before either team reaches 15 points in the game/set. Any player who enter the game/set after either team has reached 10 points may be protested anytime before the match is completed. No eligibility protests may occur after the game/set has been completed.
16. Team captains must make referee aware of illegal/ineligible player.
17. Referee must then capture suspected illegal/ineligible player photo I.D. and record the necessary information to field the protest and report the information to the City of Amarillo the next business day. If the player in question cannot produce a photo I.D., that player will cause his/her team to forfeit that game/set.
18. An **illegal player** is deemed as any player who plays under an assumed name, is not on the official roster or a player who participates on two different teams on the same night/day. **If player is found to be illegal, the current games/matches player participated in will be forfeited and player will be suspended based on the number of incidents in which the player has been involved.**
19. An **ineligible player** is deemed as any player who is playing under the minimum age of 18 or any player(s) that fails to produce a valid photo I.D. when asked by a referee or City of Amarillo official. **If the player is found to be ineligible, the current games/matches player participated in will be forfeited.**
20. **FORFEITS and DISQUALIFICATION/EJECTIONS**
21. Any team discovered using illegal/ineligible player(s) will forfeit the in-progress game. This includes eligible players who cannot produce a photo I.D.
22. Any team that does not have four players to start the first game at the scheduled starting time will lose the game by forfeit, 25 to 0.
23. If neither team has four players to start the game at the scheduled starting time, the game will then be a double forfeit, 0 to 0.
24. If the first game of the match was forfeited, the losing team(s) then has 10 minutes to get their four players to arrive and start the second game of the match.
25. If the forfeiting team(s) is not able to provide four players by the allowed 10 minutes, the second match will then be a forfeit as well, 25 to 0.
26. Any player or spectator who directs profane remarks, gestures or verbal abuse toward the referee, other player or spectator could automatically be disqualified from the game by the referee.
27. Any player/spectator who is disqualified must leave the gym premises immediately for the remainder of the night.
28. Team captains, coaches, managers and the entire team will be responsible for assuring that the player(s)/spectator(s) ejected leave the gym or the team will forfeit all remaining matches and possible further action could be taken.
29. Team captains will be asked by the referee to control actions of their fans that become too rowdy or insulting. If fans persist in this manner after the referee has warned the team captain, the gym will be cleared of the involved team and spectators. A forfeit will result if a team’s fans refuse to leave the gym when asked.
30. **Yellow and red cards** **will be utilized when necessary**. A yellow card is a warning. A red card is a penalty point. A yellow and a red card together = ejection from in-progress game. A yellow card and a red card separately is an ejection from the entire match. Verbal warnings, penalties and ejections will also be allowed by the referee.
31. If, at any point, a player ejection/disqualification causes the penalized team to drop below the amount of required players to participate, that team will be required to forfeit the game/set or match. The final score for any forfeit is 25 to 0.
32. **If you know in advance that you will be forfeiting, please call the Parks and Recreation Athletic Department so the opposing team and referee(s) may be notified. Phone number is (806) 378-9301.**
33. **GYM USAGE**
34. **Please leave all valuables at home.** The City of Amarillo or Amarillo I.S.D. will not be responsible for stolen or lost personal articles of any kind.
35. All participants are required to wear tennis shoes on gym floors. Any shoes that leave marks on the floor will not be allowed. Players may not participate without proper shoes.
36. All teams are asked to help keep the entire building clean: floor, restrooms, common areas, etc. **No smoking, alcoholic beverages or drugs are allowed on Amarillo I.S.D. premises. Water or sports drinks in closed plastic bottles or squeeze bottles are acceptable in the gymnasiums. Soft drinks or any beverage in a glass bottle or in a can are not permitted in Amarillo I.S.D. gymnasiums.**
37. Any person that is judged to be intoxicated or under the influence of drugs by referees, gym officials, or City Officials will be asked to leave the premises immediately.
38. **Children attending the games with their parents are not allowed to be in any halls, locker rooms, common areas, etc. Penalty points will be awarded to the opposing team each time a game has to be stopped due to a team’s unruly children. Referees will enforce this rule any time children are out of the gym area or disrupting the volleyball matches.**
39. Damage done to facilities will be grounds for a suspension of no less than three games not to exceed six, depending on severity, for all nights individual is participating in City of Amarillo Adult Sport Leagues. Player(s) involved may not participate in any City of Amarillo Adult Sport Leagues until damages have been repaired. Once damages are repaired, the determined suspension will then be enforced. Depending on severity and type of damage, legal charges may be filed.
40. **GAME CANCELLATIONS**
41. **Indoor Play** – The rule of thumb for cancellation is as follows:
42. If the Amarillo I.S.D. schools are closed, there will be no matches.
43. If there is inclement weather (snow or ice), please contact the weather hotline at 806-378-4289 after 4:30 p.m. for any updates. You can also visit the P.A.R.D. website at [**www.amarilloparks.org**](http://www.amarilloparks.org).
44. Rescheduled games will be emailed out no later than 72 hours from the date of cancellation. All rescheduling information will be sent out via email to the coach listed on the official roster. If coaches have not received an email within 72 hours, please go online to see if your team schedule has been updated or contact the Parks and Recreation Athletic Department.
45. **TEAM RANKING DEFINITIONS**
46. **RANK 1** – This is the most competitive rank available. This rank would be used for those players who are interested in practicing and developing their skills to a higher degree for tournament level play. Bump, set, and spike on a regular basis. If you play tournament volleyball, you should be in this Rank. The ball must be handled in an acceptable manner as defined by the current U.S.A. Volleyball playing standards.
47. **RANK 2** – This rank is for those players who still have very few **minor** ball handling issues but are interested in practicing and developing their skills to a higher degree. Referees will give minor latitude in ball-handling skills provided that the player is making an attempt to play the ball correctly. If you play tournament volleyball, you should be in this Rank or Rank 1. The teams in this division bump, set and spike on a regular basis. No latitude will be allowed in other areas.
48. **RANK 3** – This is for middle-of-the-road teams. This rank is basically for players who have the ability and desire to play competitive volleyball but lack in certain skill areas. In this league players are trying to develop their skill levels and play above the level of pure recreation. If you want to be a tournament team, you should participate in this Rank or higher. This league is also for teams looking to perfect the bump, set and spike skill. Referees will allow some latitude in ball handling.
49. **RANK 4** – This rank is basically for players who are not looking to bump, set and spike. Players in this rank may or may not be looking to develop skills. Either way this is the recreational league for all second season beginners that finish in the top three of a Rank 5 division. This would also be a great rank for beginners who know the basic rules of volleyball. If your team bumps, sets and spikes on a regular basis, you should be in a Rank 3 or higher. Referees will allow latitude in ball handling. Overhand serving and spiking are both allowed.
50. **RANK 5** – This rank is for **beginners** and teams that cannot compete in a Rank 4 division. **Strictly for Recreational play.** No bumping, setting or spiking should be happening in this league. **There is no spiking or overhand serving allowed.** Referees will call very little ball-handling penalties at all.
51. Teams are asked to rank themselves; however, all teams will be looked at and put into as equally competitive rank as possible but can make no guarantees. Determining factors for rank placement are based on previous season standings and team roster information.
52. **OTHER LEAGUES OFFERED**

 The Amarillo Parks and Recreation Department will offer a Tuesday Night Mixed

 Church League for Division 4 church teams. Church teams of other skill levels will

 participate in open mixed leagues and will not be subjected the church league

 eligibility requirements. All players in the Division 4 Mixed Church Volleyball

 League must attend services on at least a part time or somewhat regular basis at the

 same church. (A part time or somewhat regular basis is defined as attending

 approximately eight times per year or being a new attendee who has attended the

 church at least three times.) The pastor or associate pastor of the church that the team

 is representing must sign the roster form verifying that all players attend that church

 on at least a part time or somewhat regular basis. Team members are not required to

 be official members of the church.

1. **VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE DEADLINE and START DATES**
2. No registrations will be accepted after the deadline date.
3. The 2015 Winter Season deadline date is Tuesday, October 13, 2015, and the league start date is October 28, 2015.
4. The 2016 Spring Season deadline date is Friday, January 8, 2016 and the league start date is January 25, 2016.
5. **GAME TIME(S), STANDINGS and SCHEDULES**
6. Game times are during the evening hours and are as follows: 7:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m., 8:30 p.m., 9:00 p.m., 9:30 p.m. , 10:00 p.m.
7. If needed, some make-up games could possibly start at 6:30pm and/or 10:30pm.
8. **GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME – NO EXCEPTIONS!**
9. All coaches should advise their players to show up 10 minutes prior to the start of each match. During the indoor seasons, the Amarillo I.S.D. gyms should be open by 6:50 p.m.
10. Special scheduling is not available.
11. If necessary, games could possibly be scheduled to play on Friday (make-up games only).
12. When the schedules are available, team coaches will receive an email. **Schedules will NOT be mailed out. Phone calls will NOT be made.**
13. Coaches are responsible for making all players aware of scheduled and rescheduled games.
14. Schedules can be found by going to [www.amarilloparks.org](http://www.amarilloparks.org), then scrolling over the section titled **“Departments”,** then scroll over **“Athletics”,** and finally, click on **“Schedules”.** You will then be rerouted to our **“Quick Scores”** website where you can click on **“Find My Team”.** This option is located in the black box on the left hand side of your screen. Once you have gotten to this screen, you can search by team or coaches name. (A screen shot is available on the following page.)
15. Standings can be found by going to the same places listed above except you should click on **“Standings”** instead of **“Schedules”.** Once you have located your team, your standings will be listed at the top of your league schedule.



**WEATHER HOTLINE: (806) 378-4289**

**ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT: (806) 378-9301, (806) 378-4280 or (806) 378-6015**

**REFEREE DISCREPANCIES:** **scot.plunk@amarillo.gov** or **(806) 378-4280**

**SCORE DISCREPANCIES:** **luisa.cunningham@amarillo.gov** or **(806) 378-9301**

**ANY OTHER QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS:** **andy.tarkington@amarillo.gov** or **(806) 378-6015**

**ONLINE REGISTRATION and OTHER INFORMATION:** [**www.amarilloparks.org**](http://www.amarilloparks.org)