

Midwest Plains Volleyball Conference
Rules



1) Men's Conference Structure

- a. Conference structure will depend on the number and geographical location of the teams in the current season.
- b. Men's teams will play in three (3) events during the season: 1) Regional Event, 2) Crossover Event, and 3) Conference Championship Event.
- c. The official start date of the season is January 1.
- d. All teams are expected to attend each conference event during the season.
- e. Teams are to turn in an eligibility form (1 per team) and liability waivers (1 per player including bench personnel) prior to the start of the season. Teams will not be permitted to play without these forms.

2) Women's League Structure

- a. Conference structure will depend on the number and geographical location of the teams in the current season.
- b. Women's teams will play in two (2) conference events during the season: 1) Regional Event and 2) Conference Championship Event.
- c. The official start date of the season is January 1.
- d. All teams are expected to attend each conference event during the season.
- e. Teams are to turn in an eligibility form (1 per team) and liability waivers (1 per player including bench personnel) prior to the start of the season. Teams will not be permitted to play without these forms.

3) MWPVC Championships

- a. All teams in good standing will qualify for a division in the MWPVC Championships.
- b. The Conference Commissioner, Associate Commissioner, and Women's Commissioner will coordinate the process of match sites, dates, times, officials, and other administrative duties. The MWPVC board members will resolve any conflicts.
- c. Championship Format
 - i. The format for all men's and women's divisions will be a pool play round and a challenge round on day 1. Day 2 will be a single elimination tournament.
 - ii. All matches will be played best 2 of 3 rally point sets, the first two sets played to 25 points and any deciding sets (as needed) played to 15 points, with all sets requiring a team to win by two and having no cap on maximum points.
 - iii. At the conclusion of pool play teams shall be ranked according to the

following:

- Match Ratio
- Head to Head
- Set Ratio

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- Point Ratio
- Coin Toss

* In the event of a tie that will result in one team being eliminated from the championship flight based on set or point ratio, there will be a one game playoff to 25 points. A team cannot be eliminated from the championship flight by points or sets.

4) Commissioner's Duties

- a. Has the right to decide anything not specifically covered in the constitution.
- b. Shall oversee conference standings and match results throughout the regular conference season. All results and standings will be online.
- c. Shall organize each event, and obtain and pay for the R1 and R2 officials for the respective events.
- d. Shall provide conference awards purchased from conference fees.
- e. Shall have discretion to effectuate sanctions. This includes, but is not limited to, sanctioning players or teams whose activities reflect negatively upon the MWPVC and the NCVF.
- f. These duties apply to the Conference Commissioner (*President*), Associate Commissioner (*Vice-President*) and Women's Commissioner (*Secretary*).

5) Advisory Committee

- a. The MWPVC will select at least one (1) representative from each region to advise each Conference League Commissioner, Women's Commissioner and Associate Commissioner before, during, and after each competitive season. If any representative is unable to serve, the committee may operate with less than the original number in the committee. The Conference Commissioner may consider a player to fill a committee seat if there are an insufficient number of members. This committee shall advise on the following:
 - i. Rule protests
 - ii. Eligibility protests
 - iii. Officiating requirements
 - iv. All-Conference selections (if applicable)
 - v. Assist with the MWPVC Championships
 - vi. Other assigned issues
 - vii. Attend an end of season dinner on the first night of championships

6) Official Rules

- a. For all MWPVC events, the current USA Volleyball Indoor Rules is in full effect. Any rule modifications are listed on the NCVF website.

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- b. All event matches will be best of 3 sets.
- c. The recommended ball for men is the Molten V5M5000-3N. The recommended ball for women is the Molten Super Touch IV58L-3. These balls will be used at all MWPVC and NCVF events.
- d. The official warm-up will begin 10 minutes prior to the match:
 - i. The two teams share the court for 2 minutes with no hitting.
 - ii. The first 4 minutes belong to the serving team.
 - iii. The second 4 minutes belong to the receiving team.
 - iv. Due to safety concerns, teams may not warm-up behind a team that is warming-up on the court during its designated time.

7) Uniforms

- a. Before purchasing uniforms, the MWPVC strongly recommends that teams review the uniform requirements and reach out to the Conference Commissioner with any questions.
- b. KEY POINTS REGARDING LEGALITY:
 - i. Any collegiate varsity uniforms will be considered legal for NCVF competition. This allows MWPVC teams to receive older uniforms from their varsity program.
 - ii. Jerseys and shorts must be identical for all regular players (non-Libero).
 - iii. Uniforms must be numbered in a permanent manner using Arabic numerals.
 - 1. Numbers 1-99 are legal. Numbers 0, 00-09 are not legal and will not be permitted
 - 2. Number minimum height: Front 4"; Back 6". Recommended: Front 6"; Back 8"
 - 3. A stripe must be solid with a minimum width of 3/4".
 - 4. Stripe must clearly contrast with the jersey.
 - iv. Uniform numbers must be clearly visible and centered on the front and back of the jersey
 - v. If the jersey is tucked in, the number must be clearly visible. The main goal is to see the number at a glance; placement and size are factors
 - vi. Numbers on shorts (if any) must match jersey number. All shorts must be identical
 - vii. The Libero(s) must wear a uniform which clearly contrasts with the rest of the team.
 - viii. The solid color requirement no longer exists.
 - ix. Certain combinations of colors do not meet any standard of contrast. Some are, but not limited to,

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1. black/navy; red/maroon/burgundy; black/dark green; white/light yellow; navy/maroon. Such combinations must be avoided.
 - x. Since contrast can be subjective (eye of the beholder, lighting, wetness) some jersey combinations like (black/gray) may be IN THE MARGIN.
 - xi. The legality of combinations which are IN THE MARGIN is left to the officials conducting the match. Some match officials may permit the combination while others may prohibit it. Match officials have the right to prohibit the team from playing in such combinations.
- c. A team may appeal a uniform discrepancy with the tournament director and head official of a particular event.

8) Code of Conduct

- a. Players participating in the MWPVC assume a duty to conduct themselves and their team in a manner compatible with their school's purpose as a post-secondary educational institution. Players are expected to act in a mature and responsible manner when participating in all MWPVC events. By participating in MWPVC events, participants acknowledge that they are ambassadors to the sport of volleyball, both on and off the court. Participants, therefore, will abide by the highest sportsmanship and ethical standards of conduct.
- b. Any reports (e.g. from other teams, law enforcement, and/or hotel management) of activities that reflect negatively upon the MWPVC may result in sanctions.
- c. When participating in any MWPVC event, players and teams must comply with all applicable policies and rules set forth by their schools.
- d. All participants will conduct themselves with honor and dignity. This includes playing volleyball for the game's sake, being gracious in a win or loss, working for the good of the team, and applauding the efforts of teammates and opponents.
- e. Participants will not:
 - i. Consume, distribute, or possess alcohol while participating in any MWPVC event. State laws prohibit the use of alcohol by anyone under the age of twenty-one.
 - ii. Attend any MWPVC event while intoxicated.
 - iii. Consume, distribute, or possess drugs that are a violation of federal or state laws. Any person found in violation may be subject to prosecution by law enforcement.
 - iv. Inappropriately taunt or physically confront any participant or other person at any MWPVC event.
 - v. Damage or destroy any facilities or personal property of others at any MWPVC event.
 - vi. Violate facility or hotel rules or policies.

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- vii. Violate any federal, state, or local laws while at an MWPVC event.
- f. Should a team member violate any rules during an event, that player, the team president and coach (if applicable), will be required to attend a disciplinary meeting.
- g. By signing the MWPVC eligibility form and liability waiver for the current season and participating in conference events, participants acknowledge that there are inherent risks associated with attending or playing in any MWPVC event, including but not limited to risk of injury, loss of or damage to personal property and other potential losses or damages. Participants assume liability for injuries or damages in connection with their individual or joint participation in any MWPVC event and waive any and all claims against MWPVC and its representatives or agents including claims for negligence.
- h. It is the responsibility of the team representative to review this section with his/her team and participants and all participants must sign and date the MWPVC liability waiver.

9) Conference Schedule

- a. Teams are expected to attend their respective regional tournament, the crossover event and conference championships.
- b. In the event a team does not attend a tournament without 3 weeks prior notice, the violating team will be disqualified from conference championships. If the team does not give proper notice for conference championships, that team will be on probation and may be subject to expulsion from the conference for two (2) years.
- c. If a team does not give proper notice or fails to show at an event, the following penalties may be enforced:
 - i. Forfeiture of all matches.
 - ii. \$100 deposit will be forfeited.
 - iii. Ineligibility for the MWPVC Championships.
 - iv. Team no longer in good standing with MWPVC (teams not in good standing with conference may not attend NCVF National Championships).
 - v. Probationary status the following year with the possibility of expulsion from the league for further infractions.
 - vi. The Conference Commissioner shall take any other action when deemed necessary.
- d. Any team not intending to compete in the MWPVC Championships must inform the Conference Commissioner before the completion of the men's crossover event. If a team decides not to participate in the championships after this date, and fails to inform the League Commissioner and/or Women's Commissioner of its decision, the team will be ineligible for the championships the following year. A team also may be ineligible to participate in conference for two (2) years.

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10) Eligibility

- a. Good Standing: For a team to be in good standing, they must:
 - i. Submit conference dues before deadline
 - ii. Submit roster verification form before deadline
 - iii. Give proper notification if a team will not be present for a MWPVC event
 - iv. Abide by all other MWPVC and NCVF rules listed on the website.
 - v. For all MWPVC events, the NCVF Governance Rules are in full effect.
 - vi. Minimum Unit Rule
 - A player must be enrolled as a 3/4 full-time undergrad student (generally 9 units) or a minimum of 6 hours as a graduate student from the first day of classes in January through Nationals.
 - If on a quarter system, the player must meet eligibility requirements for both winter and spring quarters.
 - vii. Players may qualify for an exception as a graduating senior or as a player enrolled in a school required/recommended internship. Such players must file an appeal by submitting the Senior Certification form or the Internship Exception form on the NCVF website. If an appeal is denied by the NCVF, that player will also be ineligible for MWPVC events.
- b. Consecutive Years
 - i. Four-Year Universities - Eligible Players are limited to six consecutive years of participation in MWPVC events. Year one begins the first year that an eligible player's name appears on a NCVF eligible team roster, previous national collegiate club volleyball championship tournament team roster, or the first year their name was listed on a school's varsity volleyball roster.
 - ii. Two-Year Universities/ Colleges - Eligible Players from recognized 2-year universities are limited to three consecutive years of participation in MWPVC Events. Year one begins the first year that an eligible player's name appears on a NCVF eligible team roster, previous national collegiate club volleyball championship tournament team roster, or the first year their name was listed on a school's varsity volleyball roster.
 - iii. If a player from a recognized two-year university transfers to a four-year university, that player's eligibility will be considered under the six-year consecutive rule.
 - iv. Exceptions to the six year and three-year consecutive participation rules may be granted by the MWPVC for military, medical, religious service, or other "extraordinary circumstances."
- c. MWPVC Appeal Process.
 - i. An "extraordinary circumstance" is a narrow exception as it goes beyond what other similarly situated players may be encountering.

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ii. “Extraordinary circumstances” typically describe unfair, unreasonable, or unique factors or situations that are independently caused, i.e., with little or no student control or choice. For example, “extraordinary” includes situations where a fire, flood, or institutionally imposed decision has restricted an individual’s playing opportunities.

d. Former Varsity Rule – A team may have 2 “former varsity” volleyball players on its roster. *Junior/community college volleyball players do count as “former varsity” players.*

e. Any team using ineligible players shall forfeit all matches in which that player participated.

f. The remaining matches will count for official standings, but the violating team will be ineligible for the MWPVC Championships.

g. The violating team will be on probationary status the following year and will be subject to expulsion from the league upon further violation.

h. A team returning to the conference after being removed for disciplinary reasons must serve a two (2) year probationary period unless waived by the Conference Commissioner.

i. Official rosters will be limited to fifteen (15) players.

j. Only players and coaches listed on the official roster form will be approved to sit on that team’s bench.

k. All new teams must serve a one (1) year probationary period.

11) Conference Admission Deadlines

a. All previous members of the conference must re-file for admission each year.

b. An email will be sent out in the fall to all prior members of the MWPVC for the team representative to file for admission for the current season. Each team shall:

i. Inform the Conference Commissioner who will represent it and provide that person’s contact information including name, address, telephone number and email address.

ii. Meet Conference entrance fees and eligibility responsibilities.

iii. Complete a signed roster verification form to the Conference Commissioner or Women’s Commissioner. This form must be received by the conference before the first event. If it is not received, that team will not be eligible to compete. This form must be signed by the sports club director/ registrar and have the University seal.

c. All participants from each team, including coaches and managers, must sign a MWPVC Liability Waiver that will be emailed to team representatives prior to the first tournament. These waivers must be turned in to the commissioner at the first event of the season. Failure to submit this waiver will result in players not being able to participate in the event.

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- d. Conference entry fees must be paid on or before December 1 of the prior year or a late fee of \$150 per team will be imposed. Failure to pay by January 1 will eliminate that team from membership in the conference for the current academic year.

12) Conference Fees

- a. Conference fees for both men's and women's divisions will be outlined on invoices sent to teams in November prior to the season.
- b. The conference entry fee **DOES** include the \$50 NCVF Membership Fee. The conference will pay this fee on the VBREG site, and should not be paid by teams. It is highly recommended that any team considering playing at the NCVF National Championships obtain a membership.
- c. The conference entry fee will be used to cover administrative costs, rental fees for events, the conference webpage, all-conference and championship awards, officials for all MWPVC events, as well as conference management travel and others costs associated with attending MWPVC events and NCVF meetings.
- d. Any additional expenses, which the conference may wish to cover, will be levied only with the approval of the Midwest Plains Volleyball Conference Board of Directors.

13) Team Responsibilities

- a. Each team must file with the Conference Commissioner the following documents to substantiate each player's student status:
 - i. Roster Verification Form – due at first season event
 - ii. MWPVC Liability Waiver/Code of Conduct- due at first season event
 - ii. Team Roster (from VBReg)- Updated roster due prior to each conference event.
- b. Each team representative must see to it that the proper forms and fees are sent in by the stated deadlines.
- c. Match obligations each officiating team:
 - i. R2 (except for in gold flight of Championships), 1 scorer, 1 libero tracker, 1 scoreboard operator, and 2 line judges.

14) Miscellaneous

- a. The MWPVC Commissioner, Women's Commissioner, Associate Commission, advisory committee, and applicable conference officials shall determine how best to recognize outstanding play, sportsmanship, coaching, and contributions to men's and women's collegiate club volleyball within the structure of the MWPVC. It is intended that each event will produce a Most Outstanding Player and the league will have a 1st team and 2nd Team (by position), Honorable Mentions (as necessary), Official of the Year, and

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the Kaiser Mental Attitude Award. Other awards may be granted within the discretion of the MWPVC Board of Directors.

15) New Teams

- a. Any university seeking to add a team to the MWPVC should contact the Conference Commissioner for assistance. Contact information is found on the MWPVC website.

**Midwest Plains Volleyball Conference Inc.
Board of Directors & Staff**

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Commissioner
Women's Commissioner
Associate Commissioner
Head Official
Head Athletic Trainer