

ROPSSAA BOYS VOLLEYBALL

PLAYING REGULATIONS

1. DATE

- (a) The boys' volleyball season will run in the fall as per the ROPSSAA Constitution and Co-Curricular Schedule.
- (b) The start time for games, unless otherwise requested by the participating schools, will be 3:30pm. The second game of a double header will start no earlier than 20 minutes after the first game finishes, unless agreed upon by both coaches.
- (c) The order of play for double header matches will be junior/senior for the first half of the season and senior/junior for the second half of the season.

2. LOCATION

- (a) The ROPSSAA Championship will be held at the school of the Convenor or at a facility designated by the Convenor and approved by ROPSSAA Council.
- (b) Hosts for the division one playoff games will be at the highest seeded school. Hosts for the division two playoffs will be played at the school of the team which ranked higher in league standings at the end of the season. In the event two teams have the same league standing, there will be a coin toss to determine the home team.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- (a) All competitors must meet the eligibility requirements as per Article X of the ROPSSAA Constitution. The eligibility list must be submitted by the deadline announced at the preseason meeting.
- (b) Competition shall be at the junior and senior level with age classifications as follows:
 - (i) Junior: Shall not have attained their 15th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held (for the 2023 – 2024 school year, born in 2008 or later). In addition, they must be in their first or second year of high school.
 - (ii) Senior: Shall not have attained their 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held (for the 2023 – 2024 school year, born in 2004 or later).
- (c) Once a player has played at one level of competition, they are ineligible for another.
- (d) Team Eligibility
 - (i) Individuals are eligible for 1 level of competition only.

- (ii) For team sports, individuals must have participated in at least 50% of their team's league games to be eligible for playoffs and OFSAA. Players missing games due to injury (INJ), or awaiting transfer approval (ATA), must appear so designated on a game sheet to maintain their eligibility. Games missed due to injury are subject to review of a doctor's note. Players under game or school suspension may not have their name included on a game sheet for participation percentages.
- (iii) All game sheets/rosters are to include the name of all those in the bench area (players, coaches, managers). In order to be in the bench area an individual's name must appear on the eligibility sheet. Players under game or school suspension may not sit in the bench area.
- (iv) Individuals are deemed to have played if their name appears on a game sheet. Individuals must be present at a game to be included on a game sheet.
- (v) A staff member must be present in the bench area from the start of the warm-up until the last competitor has left the area.

4. OPERATING STRUCTURE

- (a) There will be two tiers of play at the junior and three tiers of play senior level.

As per Article XI, Section IV, (b) of the ROPSSAA Constitution, the tiers offered at the senior level are defined as:

- (i) *OFSAA Level - Teams agreeing to represent ROPSSAA at their OFSAA classification (A, AA, AAA) no later than the preseason meeting. Sport convenors will decide on the format of the season and teams will participate in OFSAA playdowns based on their classification (if necessary). Teams must abide by all ROPSSAA and OFSAA Transfer and Eligibility policies.*
 - (ii) *Tier 1 - Teams are competitive but do not desire to declare their intention to compete for an OFSAA spot at the AAA level. Students must abide by the ROPSSAA Transfer and Eligibility policy. If there are no teams in the A or AA classification at a higher level and the team commits to OFSAA by the pre-season meeting, these teams may represent ROPSSAA at OFSAA but not participate in ROPSSAA playoffs. These teams must follow OFSAA Transfer and Eligibility policies and will participate in OFSAA playdowns (if necessary).*
 - (iii) *Tier Two - Teams agree that participation and development is the purpose. Students must abide by the ROPSSAA Transfer and Eligibility policy. If there are no teams in the A or AA classification at a higher level and the team commits to OFSAA by the preseason meeting, these teams may represent ROPSSAA at OFSAA but not participate in the ROPSSAA playoffs. These teams must follow the OFSAA Transfer and Eligibility policies and will participate in OFSAA playdowns (if necessary).*
- (b) Intent to participate information will be collected in June. The final deadline to add or drop a team from the schedule will be the Monday prior to the pre-season meeting in September. Any schools withdrawing a team after this time will be subject to a one year ban from competition.

(c) Number of Games

- (i) Where possible, 8 – 10 games will be scheduled.

(d) Ties in League Standings

OVA tie-breaker procedures will decide all positions (Appendix A).

(e) Playoff Format

The playoff structure(s) for the season will be determined based on the total number of teams in each level (JR/SR).

Playoff berths will be awarded to the top teams (to a max of 32)

- (i) Qualifying teams will be split into two brackets (Division 1 and Division 2)

- (ii) The top teams in junior tier 1 and Senior OFSAA, to a maximum 16, will advance to the Divisions 1 playoffs. The remaining teams will make up the Division 2 playoffs to a maximum of 16.

- (iii) Division 1 teams will be seeded as per 4(f) of the playing regulations. Junior tier one and OFSAA teams will have priority seeding in the playoff structures.

- a) The top teams will be seeded, however, a lower placed team from one division may be seeded higher than a higher placed team from another division. Winning the division doesn't guarantee a top seed.

- b) All eligible teams (coaches) will be asked to fill out a Google Form detailing their season information. This information will be used by the seed committee. Should a coach fail to fill this out by the deadline, only available knowledge will be used for seeding purposes. This will be based off the OFSAA model for ranking teams.

- c) All junior Division 1 preliminary and quarter final games will be best 2 of 3. The junior semifinals and all senior Division 1 games will be best 3 of 5.

- d) The senior Division 1 semifinals will have an up and a down official and two lines people. All other games will have one official.

- (iv) All senior tier one teams and the top two teams in each junior and senior tier two division may have the opportunity to qualify for Division 2.

- (v) All Division 2 teams will be seeded using the seed formula in 4(g).

- (vi) All Division 2 games will be best 2 of 3 and will have one official.

(f) Seeding criteria may include:

- (i) Current season's results including tournament results (i.e. head to head).

- (ii) Previous year's results (both at junior and senior where applicable).
- (iii) Number of returning players.
- (iv) Common opponents.

(g) Division 2 playoff seeding:

For junior and senior division two playoffs, teams will be seeded based on the following criteria:

- (i) Regular season tier
- (ii) Division standing
- (iii) League winning percentage (matches won : total matches played)
- (iv) Set winning percentage (sets won : total sets played)
- (v) Average points against (based on sets played)
- (vi) Average point differential (based on sets played)
- (vii) Average points for (based on sets played)
- (viii) Coin toss

Note: For Division 2, a lower place team cannot be seeded above a higher placed team. All of the first place teams will be seeded, then second, third etc., until all available playoff positions have been filled.

(h) Scheduled Games

- (i) Coaches are responsible for reviewing final league game schedules and playoff schedules as to locations, dates, and times to ensure their attendance.
- (ii) Failure to attend at the scheduled time will result in forfeiture of the game and/or loss of opportunity to compete. Failure to attend at the scheduled time will result in forfeiture of the game and/or loss of opportunity to compete. The defaulting team will cover all cost associated with the game as determined by ROPSSAA Council.
- (iii) Failure to fulfill game requirements leading to the abandonment of a game will result in a loss for that team. An incident report must be completed and submitted to the ROPSSAA Athletic office by the abandoning team within 24 hours of the game. No scores shall be entered until after a Board of Inquiry. A team abandoning a game may be required to cover any costs incurred as determined by ROPSSAA Council.
- (iv) a) Schools must bring their own warm-up equipment and first aid kit.

- b)
 - i) Schools must endeavor to arrive no earlier than 60 minutes before game time. Teams arriving earlier than this must be supervised by the head coach in an area where students from the home school do not congregate. Schools with team members who do not travel with the head coach (in taxis, cars, on foot, etc.) must inform players that they must wait for their head coach and should ensure that the head coach is the first to arrive at the host school.
 - ii) Schools arriving for an away game between 30 and 60 minutes before game time must accompany the head coach to the competition area and liaise with the host school. The visiting team will be provided a safe waiting area and change room during this time and the visiting head coach must provide supervision of his/her players. Visiting athletes must bring all belongings with them to the competition area.
 - iii) Visiting schools are entitled access to the competition area at the same time as the host school, and no later than 30 minutes before the game time (pertains to the first game).
 - iv) Visiting schools are entitled access to a safe waiting area and change room at the completion of the competition.
- (i) The host school will supply line up cards at the score table for both schools.
- (j) The 3-Ball system may be used at the discretion of the host school.
- (k) Reporting of Scores
 - (i) The WINNING team must report the score according to ROPSSAA requirements.
 - (ii) Each team is responsible for uploading their game sheet and both team rosters to www.ropssaa.org by 12:00noon the day following the game. Failure to upload game sheets may result in teams being ineligible for playoffs. Game sheets submitted by fax or email will **not** be accepted.

5. ENTRIES

- (a) Each school may enter one junior and one senior team.

6. EXPENSES

- (a) During all league games and junior semifinals, the host school will pay the official fee. The officials' expenses for the finals may be met by ROPSSAA.
- (b) For the senior division one semifinals, the home school will pay for the up and the down officials and the visiting school will pay for the lines people.

7. RULES AND OFFICIALS

- (a) Games shall be played according to the rules outlined in the Official Canadian Volleyball Association Rule Book with the following exceptions:

- (i) Two Libero Rule
 - a) Each Team has the right to designate up to two (2) specialist defensive players: Liberos
 - b) All Liberos must be recorded on the score sheet with the team roster.
 - c) The number of the Libero or Liberos is to be recorded on the lineup sheets for all sets
 - d) Coach may re-designate Liberos each set
 - e) Only one Libero may be on the court at anytime
 - f) The Libero CAN be either team captain or game captain at the same time as performing as a Libero.
- (ii) The net height for junior will be 2.35m; the net height for senior will be 2.43m.
- (iii) Each team is given 5 minutes on the court for warm-up. The referee is to indicate when there is 1 minute left in the allotted time.
- (iv) Twelve substitutions per game will be allowed at all levels. There is no limit to the number of times a player may leave or re-enter the set as long as the maximum number of substitutions is adhered to and as long as they leave or re-enter for the same player. Once you have a designated substitution partner for a set that is the only player that you may leave or re-enter that set for.
- (v) Time outs will be one minute in length.
- (vi) The 'quick sub' rule shall be in effect.
- (vii) During the changeover in the third game, players on the court will be allowed to go to the bench and pick up their personal possessions and bring them to their new bench before returning to the court.
- (viii) All third sets must be played. It is not an option.
- (ix) The decision to start a game early must be made by the coaches and not the officials.
- (b) Number of Games
 - (i) Regular Season
 - a) All league matches will be best 2 of 3 games. Games 1 and 2 will be played to 25 points with no cap. Game 3 will be played to 15 points with no cap. Teams are to stay on the same side for game 3 if it is NOT the deciding game. Scores are to be reported as either 2- 0 or 2-1 (if the 3rd game is deciding).

- b) The winning school is responsible for entering scores, rosters, and game sheets online. Both teams are responsible for checking that scores have been entered.

- (ii) Playoffs

Junior division one quarter finals and all division two playoff games will be best 2 of 3 games. All senior division one playoff games and the junior division one semifinals and finals will be best 3 of 5 games.

- (c) When reporting the scores, individual game scores must be given and will be shown on the ROPSSAA website. Errors on the website must be reported within 72 hours of being posted.

Note: Referees will be asked to give the original score sheet and rosters to the winning team following the match.

- (d) There will be no capped games.
- (e) Referee to signal for the teams to change sides at the end of a set. Teams will go directly to their benches and then proceed to the team bench on the other side of the court.
- (f) WARM-UP PROTOCOL

In an effort to reduce the incidence of injuries and concussions during match play, ROPSSAA will implement the following warm-up protocol. This protocol is to be followed by all teams during the hitting portion of the team warm-up:

- (i) Athletes are not permitted to cross under the net and into the receiving court after completing their attack.
- (ii) Athletes must remain on their side of the net immediately following an attack and only move to the opposite side of the net from outside of the court.
- (iii) Balls being entered to the attacking side of the net from the receiving side of the court must be entered from outside of the court at a minimum distance of six meters from the net.
- (iv) Retrieved balls must be returned along the sidelines of the court and not through the receiving court.
- (v) It is highly advised that the team not hitting stand off the court behind the baseline and retrieve volleyballs for the hitting team.
- (vi) For teams that do not follow the warm-up protocol, the referees will note on the score sheet the non-compliance of the warm-up protocol. ROPSSAA will determine the appropriate sanction for not following the warm-up protocol.

8. AWARDS

- (a) ROPSSAA gold medallions will be presented to the winning junior and senior division 1 and tier 2 teams (maximum 20 per team).
- (b) ROPSSAA silver medallions will be presented to the runner up junior and senior division 1 and tier 2 teams (maximum 20 per team).
- (c) A trophy will be presented to the winning team at each level.

Note - Should there be fewer than 6 participating schools in a league no individual awards will be distributed (ROPSSAA Constitution Article IX).

9. UNIFORMS

- (a) The playing uniform shall consist of jerseys, numbered on the front and back, similar or matching shorts, and running shoes.
- (b) Athletes may not change their clothing in the competition area. For all outdoor sports, athletes must arrive dressed to compete. Visiting teams requiring the use of washroom facilities must send a staff member into the school with the team member(s). For all indoor sports, athletes must move to the designated locker room or change area to change their clothing.
- (c) Athletes must be in their game uniform while in the competition area. Warm up outfits should be worn over top of playing uniforms. The exception to this may involve the libero who may not yet have been declared.
- (d) The libero can wear a plain t-shirt, with no number on it, as long as it is a different color than the team uniform.

10. EQUIPMENT

- (a) The home school must provide: a change room for the visiting team, a change room for the referee, team benches, game ball, net at the proper height, antennae, a proper volleyball referee stand with padding, 2 scorers, a score table, a score sheet, 2 lines people and a sweep of the gym floor before the first match.
- (b) The visiting school must provide their own practice balls and first aid kit.
- (c) All ROPSSAA league and playoff games are to be played with the Baden VCOR (same ball as at OFSAA).

11. DEPORTMENT

- (a) Competitors and Coaches are expected to behave in a sportsmanlike manner as per Article XVI, Section II of the ROPSSAA Constitution.
- (b) The name of a player who has been yellow or red carded must appear on the game sheet.
- (c) A player ejection from a game results in their automatic suspension from the next league or playoff match.

- (d) At the time of the ejection the referee will:
 - (i) Call a time out.
 - (ii) Record the name(s) on the game sheet.
 - (iii) Inform both benches.
 - (iv) Ejection of any head coach/staff sponsor results in forfeiture of the game and/or match if there is only one school staff member eligible to coach as per Article X of the ROPSSAA Constitution. If there is more than one eligible staff member on the bench at the time of ejection, the game will be allowed to continue, and the ejected individual must leave the competition area (I.e. gymnasium/field).

12. JURY OF APPEAL

- (a) A Jury of Appeal, constructed at the preseason meeting, will rule on disputes which do not fall within the jurisdiction of the officials. The Jury of Appeal will consist of the Sport Convenor and four coaches from participating schools.

13. MEDICAL PERSONNEL

- (a) The Convenor may arrange for medical coverage at the final game.

14. CHAMPIONSHIPS AND OFSAA REPRESENTATION

- (a) The junior and senior division one championship will occur on the Wednesday preceding the OFSAA deadline and will begin no earlier than 6:00pm.
- (b) As per OFSAA requirements, the top team from the Senior Division One Championship will advance to OFSAA "AAA" competition, unless already declaring their intention for A or AA competition. As per OFSAA requirements A and AA schools will have separate play downs to advance to OFSAA.
- (c) In the event that the Division One Champion is an A or AA school and will not be attending the AAA OFSAA championships the following procedures will be used to identify the AAA representative:
 - (i) The other school in the championship game shall be awarded the entry.
 - (ii) Should both schools not be an AAA school then the next available AAA school from the semifinal round will advance; if there are 2 schools then a 3 of 5 game match will be held at one of the two schools as determined by a coin toss. This match will be held on the afternoon of the Senior Championships and those results will be announced that evening.

Note: In the event of a second ROPSSAA entry at any OFSAA Championship (not including the host entry) the same selection procedures as above shall be used to identify that entry assuming that the Champion is the first ROPSSAA entry.

- (d) The division two championship will be played at 3:30 at the highest remaining school.

OVA TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES

If two or more teams are tied the following criteria will be applied, in order:

- a) The team having the best ratio of won/lost matches, considering matches between the tied teams, will be ranked higher.
- b) The team having the best ratio of won/lost games considering matches played between the tied teams will be ranked higher.
- c) The team having the best ratio of won/lost games, considering all matches of the round, will be ranked higher.
- d) The team having the best ratio of points for/against, considering games played between the tied teams will be ranked higher.
- e) The team having the best ratio of points for/against, considering all games played during the round will be ranked higher.

When you apply this rule to break a tie you should follow this sequence:

- 1) When two teams are tied, the tie-breaking criteria are applied one after the other until the tie has been broken.
- 2) When three or more teams are tied, the tie-breaker criteria are applied one after the other until all the tied teams have been ranked.

Note: This means that if there is a tie among teams X, Y, and Z and criteria 'b' is able to determine X as first, Y as second and Z as third, then no further criteria are to be used. The tie is broken.

However, if criteria "b" determines X as first and there is still a tie between Y and Z, then the ranking of the remaining teams will be determined by proceeding to criteria "c" and so on, if necessary. Do not start at (a) again. Continue through the sequence of criteria.