



## Official 6v6 Sand Volleyball Rules

Rev. May 2026

### ***League Format***

- Teams consist of up to 8 players. Games are played 6v6 with a minimum of 2 women on the court at all times. Maximum of 4 men on the court.
- Matches consist of 3 games to 25 using rally scoring. Win by 2.
- Each game counts toward league standings.
- One timeout per team, per set.

### ***Minimum Players / Forfeits***

- A legal lineup requires at least 5 players with a minimum of 2 women.
- Teams with 5 players may only have 3 men on the court.
- If a team lineup is below the minimum requirement, the first game is forfeited 10 minutes after scheduled start time. Entire match is forfeited after 15 minutes.
- Delayed starts may result in shortened final games due to court rental limits.

### ***Playoff Exception***

- During playoffs/finals only, teams may play with 1 woman if necessary as guest players / borrowed player are not allowed. A missing female spot may not be filled by a male player.
- Maximum men on the court remains 4.

### ***Mirror Rule***

- If both teams arrive with the same roster shortage issue (example: both teams short women or both teams below minimum players), the legal match may still be played.
- Teams may not intentionally remove players to mirror the opposing team and avoid a forfeit.

## ***Rotations / Libero***

- Players may rotate in only on the serve.
- Teams using 8 players may rotate from Position 1 and/or Position 4.
- Injury substitutions are permitted.
- The use of a libero is permitted.

## ***Guest / Borrowed Players***

- No guest or borrowed players are allowed during playoffs or finals.
- Guest players are allowed during the regular season only to replace an absent player.
- A guest player is a player from outside the league.
- A borrowed player is a player from another team within the league.
- Guest players must sign a waiver and pay a \$15 fee before playing.
- A single guest player may participate a maximum of 3 games/nights during the season.
- Men may replace men only. Women may replace either men or women.
- Teams must always field a majority of rostered players.
- Borrowed players are limited to 2 players and only to avoid a forfeit.

## ***Gameplay Rules***

- Jump serves are allowed.
  - Serves touching the net and crossing over are live.
  - The serve may not be blocked or attacked.
  - Teams are allowed a maximum of 3 contacts.
  - Carries, lifts, and prolonged contact are illegal.
  - A block does not count as a team contact.
  - The line is in bounds.
- Illegal services include:
  - Foot faults / stepping on the line
  - Serving out of rotation
  - Tossing and catching before serving. The ball must hit the ground before another serve attempt may be made.

## ***Playoffs / Tournament***

- Top 4 teams advance to a single-elimination playoff tournament.
  - Playoff matches are best 2 out of 3 games.
  - Tiebreakers apply even if teams did not play head-to-head during the regular season.
- Tiebreakers are determined in the following order:
  1. Point Spread Differential (PSD)
  2. Head-to-Head Results
  3. Most Points Scored (PS)
  4. Fewer Forfeits
  5. Coin Toss

## ***Sportsmanship / Jerseys / Weather***

- Referees have final authority on all calls.
  - Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in ejections, suspensions, playoff removal, or forfeiture of prizes.
- Team shirts are guaranteed to players registered by deadlines set by the league. Usually 5 days before the season begins.  
Team jerseys must be worn at all games.  
NJCS will attempt to reschedule weather cancellations whenever possible.

**Let's have a great time playing!**