

# **Beach Volleyball Rules**

## **OFFICIALS**

The game is controlled by an umpire who keeps score and who keeps track of the time.

Beach Volleyball is played in 2 x 18 minute halves with teams changing ends at half time.

## **TEAMS**

6 aside - team consists of 3 to 6 players.

Mixed teams must not have more than 3 males on the court at any one time and must have a minimum of 1 female on the court.

Ladies 4 aside - team consists of 4 players, must have a minimum of 3 players to take the court.

## **THE GAME**

### **First Service**

Teams can play for service or toss a coin.

### **Serving**

All players must serve.

The server must be standing within 1 metre of the back net and the right hand side net.

The ball can be served either over arm or under arm.

The ball can either be in the air or stationary on the non-serving hand when struck for service.

The ball must pass cleanly over the centre net without touching the roof, side or back nets.

On the return serve only, the ball must be hit at least twice before passing back over the centre net.

### **General Play**

In general play, the ball may be hit a maximum of three times before it is returned over the centre net.

It can be hit cleanly with any part of the body above the knees.

If two players hit the ball simultaneously, this will be counted as one hit.

In general play the ball can touch the side and back nets before passing over the centre net but if it touches the roof net it needs to be touched by another player on the same team before passing over the centre net.

Open handed hits (not a push) are permitted in the game, but if the ball is not hit cleanly and briskly it will result in a carry. This will be determined at the umpires discretion.

A player may only reach over the net when defending or blocking the ball.

If the players hand or arm touches the ball while blocking it is not counted as a hit.

A player may pass under the centre net while the ball is in play provided they do not interfere with the opposition or the centre net in any way.

In mixed, spiking of the ball at or towards females is not allowed.

Doing so will result in a warning, if repeated, 3 points will be deducted.

### **Point or Serve**

The point or serve is lost when:

The ball touches the ground

Team plays the ball more than three times in succession

The ball touches a player below the knees

A player touches the ball twice consecutively (except on a block or simultaneous contact from a had driven ball)

A player touches the centre net (hair touch is not a fault)

The ball touches the top net while being returned over the centre net

A player hits the ball back over the net off a serve

The ball does not pass over the centre net on a serve

The ball hits any net on a serve

The umpire calls a carry, double hit, top net or net touch

A player interferes with an opponent player

A player intimidates or abuses another player or the umpire

The serve is made from outside the serving area

Both feet must be inside the serving area until the ball is released

A players kicks the ball

A player reaches over the net when attacking the ball.

Team placing is determined by a win and bonus points system.

There will be 4 points awarded for a win, 0 point for a loss. 2 points for a draw. 1 bonus point is awarded for each 10 points up to a maximum of 50 points. Whether a team wins or loses.

Should a draw occur during finals the following will occur:

Finals – team finished higher on the ladder will proceed to the Grand Final.

Grand Final – 2 minutes of extra time.