



AAC - BEACH LEAGUE RULES – 4 Person Teams

I) MEMBERSHIP/Team Fees

- A) All players must be AAC members. **It would be most helpful for you as Captain's to help ensure that all your teammates are current with their AAC membership fees.** We mandate this for **legal/liability issues. AAC will not negotiate this point and will make no exceptions.**
- B) AAC requires payment of all Individual membership fees be paid prior to the first match on June 3rd, 2024. Last day to add a player to your roster for this season is July 15th. If you use a non-rostered player on a Monday, your team will forfeit any games that player participated in.
- C) Your Team Fee must be paid prior to playing on June 3rd, 2024; if team fee is being split between multiple players this all fees are still expected to be paid before June 3rd, If you are awaiting a sponsor check, you must inform the League Director.

II) ROSTERS

- A) Team captains may report deletions from a team roster to the AAC Beach League Director. The last day to add/revise your roster without League Director approval is July 15, 2024.
 - 1) Teams that no longer have commitment from rostered players after the 5th week of scheduled play may replace their roster spot with another non-rostered player upon approval from the AAC Beach League Director.
- B) Upon registration, AAC expects teams to participate in the league on a regular basis throughout the season.
 - 1) If a team knows that they will not be able to either court a full team or be there to ref, the team captain should inform the AAC Beach League Director **at least** 24 hours prior to the start of scheduled league play.
 - 2) If a team is expelled from the league for whatever reasons, AAC will NOT refund the team fee and will NOT refund membership fees.
 - 3) Non-rostered substitutions are not permitted unless the Beach League Director has agreed to allow this substitution. A waiver form will have to be completed/ signed prior to this happening.
 - 4) ***Substitutes are not allowed during playoffs/ finals.**
- C) Prior to the beginning of each season, teams choose a division in which to play. AAC may use the first 1-2 weeks of the season to determine whether teams have chosen the proper divisions. If a team clearly belongs in a higher or lower division, the AAC Beach League Directors reserve the right to move that team up or down to a more appropriate division. The AAC Beach League Director will base this decision on consultation with the AAC Beach League Committee and the captain of the team in question, and on the team's performance through the first 1-2 weeks.

III) OFFICIATING/SCORING

- A) To minimize league fees, AAC does not use paid officials. Teams will be scheduled to officiate games throughout the season.
- B) AAC requires only one player (the official) from the officiating team to facilitate a match **but does encourage the use of line judges on opposite corners when possible.**
- C) The referee must hold the coin toss/even-odd quickly to begin the match on time. The referee begins each volley, keeps the score of the game, and watches the boundary lines (AAC considers in bounds a ball that hits any part of the boundary line). Referees (and line judges) will make all calls and their decision will be considered final; players should self call violations on themselves to assist the referee. Captains may ask for an explanation of a call but are not allowed to question that call. Other team members should refrain from questioning any member of the officiating team that is officiating their game.
- D) After each match, captains should initial the completed score sheets and leave them at the side of the court. At the end of the evening, the team responsible for the court break-down will collect the score sheet and drop it off to the AAC command center.



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IV) REGULAR SEASON & PLAY-OFFS

- A) Standard indoor volleyball rules apply (serve rotation, open hand passing, RALLY scoring for all games, net fouls, let service (ball can touch the net on its way to the opposing side), players can set or dump the ball over the net, etc.) except:
- 1) Open hand tipping is not allowed.
 - 2) A player can not set the ball over the net unless your shoulders are square with the direction you are placing the ball (directly forward or backwards)
 - 3) Substitutions may enter only in the server's position and may come in only when the substituting team has possession of the serve. However, either team may elect to use the standard substitution rule for an entire game by notifying the official prior to the start of the game,
 - 4) AAC requires a minimum of 2 players and allows a maximum of 4 players on the court for each game. A late arriving player may enter the court in the server's position when the team has possession of the serve,
 - 5) AAC allows all players to execute an attack from anywhere on the court. That is, AAC considers all players to be front row players, THIS DOES NOT APPLY ON THE SERVICE ONLY.
- B) The regular season will begin on Monday, June 3rd, 2024, and end on Monday, August 12th, 2024.
- 1) Each match lasts 40 minutes with no warm-up time.
 - 2) Each regular season match consists of 2 games to 25 beginning at 4-4 with a 27-point cap for each game.
 - 3) If time runs out, teams will play out any rally already in progress. **Games cannot end in a tie.** Therefore, teams will play one last point to prevent any ties. If time constraints prevent teams from starting any scheduled games, the AAC Beach League Director will not count these games; AAC will remove these games from the schedule entirely.
 - 4) A coin toss (or even/odd call) at the beginning of the match determines who serves the first game and who takes which side. The serve alternates and teams switch sides for the 2nd game.
 - 5) AAC considers the start time of a match as forfeit time for the first game (i.e., 6:30PM, 7:10PM, 7:50PM), 20 minutes after the start time of the first game as forfeit time for the second game (i.e., 6:50PM, 7:30PM, 8:10PM). Referees will score forfeits involving one team 25-4. Referees will score forfeits involving two teams as a loss-loss and will register a score of 4 for both teams.
- C) AAC will assign teams for set-up and break-down of courts. Teams scheduled to set-up must pick up the equipment for their court at least ten minutes before the scheduled start of play.
- D) In the case of any ties among teams at the season's end, AAC will determine division standings as follows (in descending priority):
- 1) Overall record (winning percentage)
 - 2) Head-to-head record (winning percentage)
 - 3) Head-to-head average point differential (will not be used to deny trophies or awards to a team)
 - 4) Average point differential (will not be used to deny trophies or awards to a team)
 - 5) A coin toss (will not be used to deny trophies or awards to a team)
- E) Playoffs will begin and end on Sunday, August 25th (unless there is a need to use the "rain date" of Sunday, September 8th). To the extent allowed, AAC will conduct a Double Elimination tournament. The AAC Beach League Director may expedite the tournament by using Single Elimination or single game Winner's Bracket matches for early rounds, conducting early rounds on available Mondays prior to the Double Elimination tournament, and splitting larger divisions.



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- 1) Winner's Bracket matches consist of the best of 3 games. Referees will score each of the first 2 games to 25 beginning at 4-4 with a 27-point cap. If there is a need for a third game, officials will score it to 15, beginning at 0-0 with no cap and with a switch of sides when one team reaches 8 points.
- 2) The Challenger Bracket Match will consist of 1 game to 25 beginning at zeros with no cap and with a switch of sides when one team reaches 13 points.
- 3) A coin toss at the beginning of the match determines who serves the first game and who takes which side. If applicable, the serve alternates the following game. If applicable and necessary, a second coin toss at the beginning of the third game determines who serves the final game and who takes which side.
- 4) If the winner of the winner's bracket loses in the final, the teams will play one more game to 25 beginning at 0-0 with no cap and with a switch of sides when one team reaches 13 points.

V) SPORTSMANSHIP

- A) All players, coaches, managers, and teams must abide by Chicago Park District rules for Montrose Beach.
- B) AAC does not condone unsportsmanlike behavior. Appropriate measures will be enacted in all cases.
- C) Unsportsman like behavior is described as:
 - 1) A player taunts an opponent after or during a rally.
 - 2) A person swears at or is overly aggressive toward an official, opponent, spectator, or any AAC member.
 - 3) A player physically attacks or assaults an official, opponent, spectator, or any AAC member.
 - (1) The person will be asked to leave for the remainder of the season immediately.
 - (2) The person will be placed on probation until the AAC Beach League Director determines whether that person should be allowed to play in the league again.
 - (3) The person may be excused from playing in any other sports leagues that AAC offers.

VI) INJURIES/ACCIDENTS

- A) If a participant is injured on or off the court during any AAC event and needs medical attention, the team captain must make sure that someone assists the injured participant in obtaining medical attention. The League Director will assist in any way possible.
- B) Accidents and injuries will occur. To lessen the risk of injury, we ask that all participants become aware of their surroundings before stepping onto the court. Please notify an AAC Beach League Director or Committee Member if you encounter any hazards on the court.

VII) Alcohol and/or other Illegal Substances

- A) It is against the law to have in your possession at any time alcohol or illegal substances on Park District property. Playing while under the influence is dangerous to everybody involved and will not be tolerated. If it is determined that any member in the league or team is playing under the influence of any substance or alcohol, that member or team will be asked to discontinue play for that evening. Any repeat occurrence of this matter is grounds for immediate expulsion from the league. Individual membership and team fees will not be refunded.