

## HUNTER VOLLEYBALL INC. (2000657)

### Newcastle Social Competition By-Laws (Revised 8/8/2020)

1. **INDOOR PLAYING SEASONS** Hunter Volleyball has playing seasons as specified by the "Association" committee to meet the current needs of the social competition, this shall not exceed 4 per annum for indoor volleyball.
2. **DIVISIONS OF COMPETITION** In determining needs, the Committee reserves the right to set a limit to the number of teams within any division to ensure the optimal competition (or tournament) for its members.
  - 2.1 **A DIVISION** This premier division caters for all players regardless of gender and is played at men's height net (2.43m) and to international rules. The Committee will determine from time to time the method for declaring and grading players in A Grade, limiting their participation in lower grades contained in by-law 3.
  - 2.2 **B DIVISION** (can contain 'Pools' as specified to meet competition needs) This division caters for all players regardless of gender and is played at men's height net (2.43m). Caters more for the developing social' player competing in a structured competition, to international rules. Leniency on some ball handling and substitution rules may be approved and communicated by the Committee.
  - 2.3 **C DIVISION.** This division is for the social player, enjoying a more relaxed competition experience, and is played at net height of 2.35m. From time to time Hunter Volleyball may deliver a Mixed Social Division which contains specific rules regarding the number of female participants on court during a game, and the number of ball-touches a female must make during a rally. Teams will be notified prior to entering their teams if these strict Mixed Social rules apply.
  - 2.4 **B DIVISION WOMEN'S.** This division is equivalent to B Grade structure, but encourages participation of players of all abilities and transitions junior or inexperienced players from weekly competitions into women's representative teams or the men's A or B Grades, and is played at the women's net height (2.24m).
  - 2.5 **OTHER DIVISIONS** (when incorporated into a competition) such as a Junior's Division shall be played on the recommended net height (as per Volleyball Australia or SVNSW guidelines)) dependant on the age bracket/s.
  - 2.6 **GRADING** In all cases teams apply to enter a division/grade via an entry form, and it is the sole right of Hunter Volleyball to accept or reject the nomination and to place the team in the division/grade it feels most suitable and that satisfies the competition requirements. Appeals for grading must be submitted in writing to the Association committee no later than the end of the first week of a competition. New teams may be required to play against another recognised team to determine their grade level.
  - 2.7 **COMPETITION RULES** Competitions offered by Hunter Volleyball shall be played under the FIVB Rules of the Game, for both indoor and beach volleyball. It is recognised some conditions may be outside the Association's constraint e.g. recommended court area around each court. This is subject to Hunter Volleyball by-laws as follows or any attached guidelines in the Competition/Tournament Rules (see point 3.14)

### 3. DETERMINATION OF MATCH RESULTS

3.1 All matches are to be played as the best of five sets or time limit - whichever occurs first. In all matches the team winning the most sets will be the winner. An unfinished set will be deemed complete if a team reaches 13 points and has an advantage of 2 points. Otherwise if sets are equal at the end of time, a draw will result. The match will end on the time allocation (for timed rounds) or shall conclude under the referee's instructions.

(a) Semi-final Matches amongst the top 4 placed teams in each Division/pool will be played as the best of three sets with 15 points played on the third set. Teams placed outside the top four, where possible, will play for minor placings but these matches shall be limited to court and time availability.

(b) Grand-final matches in a division shall be the best of 5 sets (under the rally point system) and with no time limits applied *where possible*. Should restrictions be placed on the match such as to the best of 3 sets, such will be notified to each team captain prior to the commencement of the official pre-match warm-up. A Grand Final may be shortened at the decision and consent of both captains.

3.2 Premiership points will be allocated as follows:

Win 4

Loss 1

Forfeit 0

Draw 2

Bye 2

Forfeit in favour 4

A *bonus points* system may be applied. When applied, the conditions must be stated/notified prior to the competition commencement, and preferably disclosed in the supplementary Competition/Tournament Rules.

3.3 In the case of equal premiership points at the end of the round games, the total number of completed sets won shall be used as the decider. When the sets won are equal, it will be divided by total completed sets lost and used as a percentage. The team with the higher percentage will achieve the higher position. In the case of equal sets; total points for and against, including unfinished sets, will be taken into consideration.

3.4 If all factors are equal and a decision is necessary, a deciding match shall be played to determine the higher ranked team to progress to finals series matches.

3.5 Teams will be able to play with a minimum of five players without conceding a forfeit to their opponent provided:

(a) the team fields 4 of its own registered players; and

- i. A Grade and B Grade teams may not field another player from their own Grade competition (subject to by-law 3.8);
  - ii. A maximum of two players from any lower Grade may be called upon, to play up in a higher grade, otherwise the match is forfeited in favour of the opponent.
- (b) A Grade and B Grade teams must nominate the playing position of the absent sixth team member, to be known as 'the hole'. When this position ('the hole') rotates to serve, the team loses serve. Other normal playing rules occur with 'the hole' position recognised.
  - (c) C Grade is the only division permitted to rotate players onto the court with service.
  - (d) In A Grade and B Grade competitions, a standard 12 substitution per set rule applies.

3.6 Player eligibility for semi-finals and finals is participation in 50% of round matches. For example, if the regular seasons consists of 10 round games, a player must play 5 round games with that team to be eligible to participate in Semi-finals or Finals matches. In the event that a player joins the competition after the midway point of the season and their team reaches the finals stage, the team captain must apply to the Committee for an exemption to this rule providing details about the players' late addition to the team.

3.7 All players must be current registered members of State Volleyball NSW, declaring their SVNSW "Contact ID" to their Team Captain or Venue Supervisor and having their financial year membership verified by the Committee before taking the court in any game. The team captain is responsible for ensuring such and may risk penalties for playing with an unregistered player. Unregistered or unfinancial players contravene the association's public liability conditions as part of the sports insurance (which is included in the player membership/state registration).

3.8 No 'A' Grade player may play as a one-off substitute for another team in any division unless the game is already declared a forfeit (see by-law 3.5).

3.9 B Grade teams may only field a maximum of two A Grade players on the court for any one B Grade game. If a B Grade team fields A Grade players, that team shall play in a higher "pool" where applicable. B Grade players are only eligible to play up into A Grade on 4 occasions in any one seasonal competition in the previous 12 months before they are deemed A division players.

3.10 In time-limit matches there will be no time-outs in the last five minutes of play.

3.11 Other minor, but specific guidelines may apply to each Comp. or Tournament which shall reflect the administration functions and may interpret the differences in play for the various divisions. This will be set out in the supplementary format and attached with the entry form or made available prior to each competition.

#### **4. COURT SUPERVISION**

4.1 Court supervisors may be appointed by Hunter Volleyball through the Committee members and are empowered to make any decision regarding a dispute, consistent with the by-laws and Rules of Volleyball.

- 4.2 The Committee of Hunter Volleyball is empowered to take action against any player or team who isn't prepared to co-operate with the reasonable request of an appointed Court Supervisor, Referee or Committee Member in the fulfilment of their duties or in regards to safety.
- 4.3 Referees are responsible for matches starting and finishing on time (see forfeits). A separate Referees Responsibilities sheet is supplied with each entry form and will be posted on the notice board. Team captains should ensure their players abide by the referees' instructions.
- 4.4 Any complaints regarding decisions of the Court Supervisor or Referee should be forwarded in writing to Hunter Volleyball through the Assoc. Committee.

## 5. FORFEITS

- 5.1 All Hunter Volleyball social competitions have a 10-minute warm-up period prior to the commencement of the first set (*e.g. a 7.30pm scheduled match begins at 7.40pm after the 10-minute warm-up period*). Therefore, if a team is not ready to start at the commencement of the first set, they forfeit the first set with the score recorded as 0-25. Every 10 minutes after that they will lose another set with the score recorded as 0-25.
- 5.2 A match can be officially forfeited at the Referee's, Court Supervisor or a Committee members discretion after 20 mins, when it is obvious that NO opposing team member/s are present, or after the time lapse (30 mins) to allow a 3 set advantage when a Team does not have at least 4 players. Note that both teams may consent to start the match before the 10-minute warm-up period is complete.
- 5.3 Should a team forfeit 3 games consecutively, the Committee has the option of withdrawing the defaulting team from the competition and preventing the team from re-entry. Entry fees paid by the team are forfeited for the 3 weeks of consecutive forfeiture plus an additional 2 weeks as a penalty due to the amendment of the season draw following the team's withdrawal. The captain of the withdrawn team may apply to the Committee for the reimbursement of the remaining portion of entry fees.

## 6. PROTESTS AND PENALTIES

- 6.1 Only team captains (or a Club president) are authorised to record a protest. The Captain must immediately indicate to the referee that they reserve the right to record an official protest at the end of the match. This protest may be written on the back of the score sheet, and the referee should notify a Court Supervisor or committee member ASAP. If practical, these disputes will be dealt with immediately with any of the Committee members or Court Super that are present.
- 6.2 Penalties result when a team:
  - a) fails to be ready to take the court on time (see 5.1),
  - b) fails to supply a completed entry form with entry fees (see 10),
  - c) fails to register members as required under State affiliation and/or club membership (see 6.3). See competition entry form for other requirements.

6.3 Any team with arrears of player membership fees (see Point 11) in a competition will be deemed to be playing with non-financial players. All match points may be deducted for those games played while a team has non-financial players, and the Committee may prevent the team from continuing to play in the competition. A player may only return to the court when their membership is renewed.

## **7. CONDUCT AT VENUE.**

7.1 At all times Hunter Volleyball expects its members to behave in a manner which brings credit to their sport and a court supervisor or Committee member has the power to ask any player or spectator to leave the venue if their behaviour is unacceptable or contravenes the safety of others. No balls are to be used for practice near courts upon which a match is in progress.

## **8. TRANSFER RULES**

8.1 Teams or their representatives are not to approach opposition players, regarding transferring to teams' mid-season; transfers must wait until the competition is completed.

8.2 Players seeking mid-season transfer must have written permission from their club or team representative giving their consent (see also 10.4).

## **9. DUTY TEAMS**

9.1 Teams will be required to provide duty personnel for Semi-finals and Finals matches including 2 referees (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>) plus 1 score person plus 2 linespersons. Hunter Volleyball may appoint accredited and appropriately experienced Referees for Grand Final matches.

9.2 Competition Duty Teams - subject to requirement of each competition, Duty teams must provide a 1<sup>st</sup> referee, 2<sup>nd</sup> referee and scorer as a minimum. See Venue Supervisor for referees' duties & responsibilities sheet.

9.3 Failure to provide Duty:

a) in Semi-Finals and Finals = loss of 1 set in final series (or 4 competition points)

b) in Round games = 2 penalty points or 1 penalty point with less than 1 weeks' notice but more than 48 hrs and no penalty if more than one week's notice.

c) All penalties applied at Committee's discretion.

9.4 Substandard Duty

Any team which is deemed by the Venue Supervisor to perform a substandard Duty will be sanctioned with 2 penalty points. Substandard duty may include but is not limited to failure to provide 2 referees and a scorer, referees failing to use whistles, continued and incorrect application of the rules, incorrect or incomplete scoresheets. Team captains concerned about a Duty Team's performance must notify the Venue Supervisor as soon as practical during the game and request their observation of the game. Venue Supervisors will assist Duty Teams with advice on protocol or Rules as much as is practical for them to complete their Duty requirements.

- 9.5 To maintain and advance the level of match officiating, a minimum of two players in each A Grade and B Grade team must complete the NSW Volleyball Referees' Association Foundation (Level 1) Referee Course at their own expense. A copy of the participant's certificate of completion is to be provided to Venue Supervisors as soon as practical after completion of this course.

## **10. COMPETITION REGISTRATION.**

- 10.1 Entry into a competition will include payment of promoted team entry fees in advance (less any incentives for pre-payment) and this payment must accompany an entry form.
- 10.2 Teams will not be included in the season's competition draw, until payment of entry fees is received by the due date.
- 10.3 Teams that wish to apply for special consideration of pre-paid Entry Fees are to email the Committee with their request, which will be considered as soon as practical prior to release of a season's competition draw and commencement of the competition.
- 10.4 Teams must complete the entry form with all information requested which includes the full name of each player on the team and is to be submit by the closing date stated.
- 10.5 The team captain or organiser should ensure that any new player in their team is entered onto their team sheet, or they may be ineligible to play in any finals series. The date the new player entered the competition should also be noted on the form to ensure qualification for any finals games.

## **11. PLAYER MEMBERSHIP**

- 11.1 Each participant is required to be a current, registered member of State Volleyball NSW. Participants are invited to nominate Hunter Volleyball as their primary Club when completing their volleyball member profile.
- 11.2 Each participant is required to be a current financial member of Hunter Volleyball Inc. The Committee may at its discretion waive the payment of financial membership in any given year.
- 11.3 All players participating in Hunter Volleyball Inc. competitions must declare their SVNSW "Contact ID" before taking the court otherwise penalties will be applied (see by-law 6.3).The Association will verify memberships are current during the playing season.
- 11.4 New Players must complete the online Individual Member registration as directed by the Committee from time to time.
- 11.5 Hunter Volleyball reserves the right to suspend or ban any player from their competitions or tournament who refuses to become a financial member.
- 11.6 Hunter Volleyball, its sponsors, affiliates or other recognised associates, do not accept liability or responsibility for the acts of others that may cause injury or harm. All members/participants play this sport at their own choice or risk.

11.7 Parents of U18 players participating in the Adult Social Competitions, must complete a Permission & Waiver form prior to commencement of the junior's first season of Social Competition or participation in Social training sessions. Permission and Wavier forms are to be held by the Venue Supervisor with seasonal team entry forms.

## **12. UNIFORMS**

12.1 Players in A and B Grade must play in a team uniform, featuring clearly visible numbers, as well as a clear and alternate coloured strip for Libero players.

12.2 Players in C Grade divisions are not required to play in numbered team shirts but are encouraged to do so.

12.3 All divisions requiring uniforms are encouraged to be in these uniforms before pre-season competition Semis and Finals fixtures. All teams entering these competitions in Winter competition must commence the season in uniform.

12.4 In circumstances where more than 50% of players in an A or B Grade team participate without a team uniform, the team will be sanctioned with 1 penalty point, and this will be recorded on the match scoresheet by the Duty Team.