



GCCYS GIRLS VOLLEYBALL RULES

1. Each member's volleyball coordinator must ensure that players meet eligibility guidelines. They can be found in Section 4 of the [GCCYS Charter on Youth Athletics](#).
2. Each member's sports coordinator/director must insure that all rosters are submitted and GCCYS liability waivers completed before the first game. Players may be added to the roster before the fifth game.
3. Pay officials before the game. Coaches should provide officials with a printed copy of their roster including girl's names and numbers. Officials have been instructed not to take abuse from coaches, players, or parents. They will ask you to leave or forfeit. Let's all demonstrate good sportsmanship.

Beginning with the 2018-19 school year, a single referee will be assigned to each match for all grade levels. Total payment for this referee is \$26 (each coach should pay the referee \$13 before the start of the match). In some cases, which will be communicated in advance, a two-referee system will be used for the season-ending tournament. For the Fall 2018 season, this will occur for all 6th-8th grade Level 1 and Level 2 tournaments. In this case, each referee will be paid \$26. One coach will pay the umpire/up referee \$26 and the other coach will pay the down referee \$26. (new in version 1.3)

4. All games are to be played as scheduled. The GCCYS is the only one able to change games and games will only be changed for parish/school- sponsored events that are mandatory. The GCCYS office must have 10 days' notice of any game changes unless a catastrophic reason.
5. Teams must start a match with a minimum of 5 players. This rule is in place to assist parishes in keeping teams from getting very large and for allowing some flexibility for coaches for matches to be played.
 - a. If a 6th player arrives after the start of a set, the player may not enter the match until after the current set is completed.
 - b. Teams starting a set with only 5 players will result in the 6th player as a "ghost" player. Every time the ghost player moves into the serving position it will be an automatic side out to the other team (loss of point and loss of serve). The ghost player should automatically take position #6 in your serving and rotational order. If a team starting with 5 players sustains an injury, the match can continue with only 4 players. This will result in two ghost

positions. If the match continues to a new set, the ghost players should automatically take positions #3 and #6 in your serving and rotational order and will continue to be a side out for the other team.

- c. If a team has 4 players or less, they may obtain a substitute player(s) so that the match may be played. The match will count as a loss, awarding all three sets to the opposing team but the match will be played. The referees will be paid their normal fee at the start of the match and there will not be any forfeit fees to the school/parish. Though a loss by League standings, obtaining substitutes in this manner is preferable as opposed to forfeiting so that as many girls as possible still can play volleyball. Eligible substitute players can come from:

- For grades 3rd – 5th, another team at your school from the same or younger grade.
- For grades 6th – 8th, a lower team in the same grade at your school or a player from a younger grade at your school.
- If all other options are not possible, a substitute can be a player who is currently rostered at another currently participating GCCYS school using the same criteria above.

Coaches having 4 players or less and playing with substitute players should be extremely upfront with the other coach before the start of the match. Sanctions will be imposed on a Coach and Parish should a team try to play an ineligible player for the match to count toward the standings or advance in the GCCYS tournament.

- d. If you do not show up for a match, the match will be considered a forfeit and your school/parish will be subject to a \$50 forfeit fee. Forfeit fees should be sent to the GCCYS and we will take care of paying the officials. If these fees are not paid, you are ineligible for the post-season tournament.

6. All leagues will play by the National Federation Volleyball Rules with the following GCCYS modifications:

- a. Each team will play 10 regular season matches.
- b. No A-B-C (Levels 1, 2, 3, 4) teams prior to 6th grade. Grades 3rd-5th are to be evenly divided (balanced).
- c. All teams in 3rd-5th and 6th-8th **Level 4** must play each player one full set from start to finish. Coaches should strive for roughly even playing time or what is determined by your school/parish. Exception is if a player is injured or sick. You must play all your players regardless of the opposing team's size. This rule is in effect for the regular season as well as the post-season tournament. The scorekeeper must sit at the scorer's table. It is the scorekeeper's responsibility to keep track of playing time.
- d. 6th-8th grade competitive teams have NO required playing time.
- e. For all grades:
 1. Scoring is rally scoring. First two sets to 25 (no cap) and third game to 15 (no cap). For 3rd and 4th grades, the third set will be played to 25 points (no cap).
(changed in version 1.4)

2. Net serves ARE allowed.
 3. Legal contact is a touch of the ball by any part of a player's body that does not allow the ball to come visibly to rest or involve prolonged contact with a player's body.
 4. Timeouts – 2 timeouts per set regardless of score
 5. No libero at any level *(added in version 1.4)*
- f. Grades 3 and 4 may only serve four (4) consecutive points; offensive team must rotate after the fourth serve won by a server.
 - g. Serving lines for 3rd-4th grades may move into the court 15 feet. Serving lines for 5th-6th may move in the court 10 feet. PLAYERS SERVE FROM SERVING LINES AVAILABLE AS NO OTHER LINES WILL BE ALLOWED FOR SUBSTITUTION.
 - h. All grades can rotate up to 8 players. Teams are permitted to rotate in 1 or 2 players. These players are listed in serving order at the beginning of each set. Players waiting to rotate onto the court may NOT touch the ball when it is hit at them. Every effort must be made to move away from the ball, judgment will be left up to the referee.
 - i. SUBSTITUTION RULE: 3rd–8th grade is 18 substitutions per set. The first line-up DOES NOT count as an entry.
 - j. The net height from the floor to the top of the net is as follows:
 - Grades 3 & 4: 6 feet
 - Grade 5: 6 feet 6 inches
 - Grade 6: 7 feet
 - Grades 7 & 8: 7 feet 4 1/8 inches
 - k. Prior to a match teams are permitted a 5-minute warm-up time. No match will start prior to match time. Grace period for the 1st set is 10 minutes. The 2nd and 3rd set will be 5 minutes.
 - l. Game ball will be the referee's choice (color ball may be used) – best ball available. 3rd-6th *(version 1.3 change)* grade will use Volley Lite balls, or any similar lightweight ball designed for 12 and under play.
 - m. No jewelry may be worn – including earrings (band aids may not cover them). No face paint, hair paint or glitter. No hard beads or plastic headbands will be permitted. Bobby pins and flat hair clips are permitted as well as any soft headband. Jersey may only be tied back to compensate for size of shirt.
 - n. Division winners are determined by total number of sets won not by the number of matches won. All sets must be played every match.
 - o. Every team is automatically entered in the GCCYS postseason tournament. The tournament pairings will be based on records after around the 8th match. If you do not wish to be entered in the tournament you must notify GCCYS a minimum of two weeks prior to the end of the regular season.
 - p. Each team should provide one line person to help the official. The line person should be 18 years or older. *(added in version 1.4)*
7. Winning team must report scores within 48 hours of the match. Team winning at least two of the three sets is considered the winning team.