



PLAYER HANDBOOK 2022

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

AVP America is the amateur branch of the AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour. We handle all levels of the sport from pro (AVP Tour Series) and semi-pro (AVPNext) beach events, grass events, and junior events.

1.1 2022 Tour Calendar

April 30-May 1	AVP Grass Tour	Lexington, SC
May 28-29	AVP Tour Series	Kenner, LA
June 3-5	AVP Juniors	Kenner, LA
June 11-12	AVP Tour Series	Muskegon, MI
June 25-26	AVP Grass Tour	Pottstown, PA
July 2-3	AVP Tour Series	Denver, CO
July 5-10	AVP Juniors	Hermosa Beach, CA (Junior Nationals)
July 8-9	AVP Tour Series	Oshkosh, WI
July 20-22	AVP Juniors	Atlantic City, NJ (Beach Week)
July 30-31	AVP Tour Series	Fort Lauderdale, FL
August 6-7	AVP Grass Tour	Manheim, PA
September 10-11	AVP Grass Tour	Greenville, SC
October 8-9	AVP Grass Tour	Chattanooga, TN (Grass Nationals)
October 22-23	AVP Grass Tour	Orlando, FL
November 12-13	AVP Juniors	Huntington Beach, CA (WCC)
November 12-13	AVP Tour Series	Huntington Beach, CA
November 19-20	AVP Tour Series	Clearwater, FL (Beach Nationals)
November 25-27	AVP Juniors	Clearwater, FL (ECC)

2.0 AVP's RESPONSIBILITIES

The AVP coordinates the entire production of the volleyball season including providing for the following: venues, prize money, fees, licensing, AVP personnel, professional officials, marketing, equipment, medical staff, security, site inspection, scoreboard, entertainment, and many other aspects involved with running the Tour.

2.1 Prize Money Disbursement

The payment process is as follows:

- Prize money will be distributed via direct deposit transactions.
- Prize money won will be paid to the player directly or at the player's written direction, to an authorized agent, firm or corporation the player may delegate, unless in conflict with any law or court order.
- Players are deemed independent contractors, for income tax purposes. All players, and especially first year players who are unfamiliar with independent

contractor status, are encouraged to make estimated tax payments throughout the year to avoid having to make a very large tax payment with potential penalties and interest in April of the following year.

- Paperwork for payments consist of a W9, direct deposit form, and university compliance letter (if applicable). All forms necessary should be turned in to the AVP if one of the following situations applies:
 - First time to ever qualify for prize money
 - If moved in the past year, only submit a new W9.
 - If an athlete has changed bank account information in the past year, only submit a new direct deposit form.
 - If payment paperwork is not received within 30 days after requested, prize money will expire and the athlete will not be eligible to receive that year's winnings.

All relevant paperwork and questions should be directed to avpnext@avp.com

3.0 ORGANIZATIONAL REGULATIONS

3.1 Tournament Format

The format for each tournament is subject to change at the AVP's discretion, but the following illustrates the expected format for each tournament.

3.2 AVPNext Tournaments

AVPNext tournament details are as follows:

- Unless specified otherwise, the tournament format will be double elimination format (i.e. last 4 remaining teams after the double elimination schedule will play a semi-final and final match). This format is often referred to as the "Olympic Crossover" format.
- In general, all matches will be two sets to 21 and a deciding third set to 15 (if required). Must win each set by 2 points. This format may be altered at any time, including after the commencement of the event, for inclement weather or other reasons of force majeure.
- AVP Management reserves the right to change formats and prize money at any time prior to an event, or during an event due to weather or other reasons of force majeure. AVP will use reasonable efforts to inform players of any changes, but it is a player's responsibility to regularly check the bracket at the tournament website, speak to AVP officers, and read their email for notices of any changes, especially during times when play may be affected by weather.

3.3 AVPJuniors Tournaments

AVP Juniors Tournaments details are as follows:

- Format: Unless otherwise specified, standard pool play format. Playoffs will be single elimination format. Unless otherwise stated, all teams will make playoffs.
- Four (4) team pools will be utilized whenever possible.
- In general, all matches will be two sets to 21 points and a deciding third set to 15 (if required). Must win each set by 2 points. This format may be altered at any time, including after the commencement of the event, for inclement weather or other reasons of force majeure.
- AVP Management reserves the right to change formats at any time prior to the event.

3.2.1 AVP Grass Tournaments

AVP Grass Tournaments details are as follows:

- Format: Unless otherwise specified, standard pool play format. Playoffs will be single elimination format. Unless otherwise stated, all teams will make playoffs.
- Four (4) team pools will be utilized whenever possible.
- In general, all matches will be two sets to 21 points. Five (5) team pools will play one set to 28 points. Must win each set by 2 points. This format may be altered at any time, including after the commencement of the event, for inclement weather or other reasons of force majeure.
- AVP Management reserves the right to change formats at any time prior to the event.

3.5 Official's Authority

3.5.1 Tournament Director

The Tournament Director has absolute authority over players, the head official, game officials and spectators, on and off the court at a tournament where the maintenance of order is concerned, and may impose disciplinary measures as needed. This includes imposing fines on players and officials.

3.5.2 Head Official

The head official is responsible for assigning all game officials at an AVP tournament (when applicable). In addition, the Head Official will address and resolve disputes that may occur during matches related to the AVP rules of play.

3.5.3 Officials

The officials have total authority on the court from the beginning of the warm-up to the completion of the match.

3.6 Player Registration Procedures

The only valid method of entry for events is online at www.avpamerica.com.

3.6.1 Registration Deadline

The registration process is as follows:

- For AVPNext and AVP Grass Tour events, all teams will need to register by 6:00 PM EST on the Monday before the event starts. For all AVPJuniors and amateur events, all teams must register by the deadline date listed on the event registration page at avpamerica.com. All entries and fees are due by these registration deadlines. Any changes to these deadlines will be sent via email to players and/or posted online. It is the player's responsibility to regularly check the event page and their own email to check for changes in registration deadline. AVP's posting of the registration change on the event page at avpamerica.com and sending of an email will be deemed valid notice of any change.
- AVP reserves the right to accept a late registration. AVP may accept late registration until the final pools/brackets are released, and AVP will charge the player an additional \$50 for late registration. This charge is for costs and inconveniences associated with changing the tournament and, mainly, to discourage players from late registration.
- If there is any disagreement about receipt of entry forms, a final decision will be made by the AVP based on physical evidence that registration and the accompanying fee were received prior to the registration deadline (e.g. Email confirmation, web log showing a completed or attempted registration).
- It is the player's responsibility to check the event page at avpamerica.com to verify that such player's team is listed accurately. If not listed or if listed incorrectly, it is the player's responsibility to contact AVP. The player must contact AVP before the registration deadline. If a player fails to contact the AVP within the allotted time period, the AVP reserves the right to exclude that player and their team from the tournament.

3.6.2 Entry Fees

All teams are encouraged to submit an entry fee when registering. Entry fees are due upon registration deadlines and can be paid by Visa/MC/AMEX/Discover. Entries without payment will NOT be accepted after the registration deadline ends. Late registration fee is \$50 per player and must be paid at the time of the late registration.

3.7 Coaches

3.7.1 Player as Coach

A tournament player entered in that tournament may not coach another tournament player during the tournament's competition.

3.7.2 Coaching Guidelines

- All coaches must register to coach in any AVPNext, AVP Grass Tour and AVPJuniors event.
- All coaches must pass the AVP background screening. This screening can be completed [here](#). USAV background screenings are also acceptable.
- All coaches must have an active Silver AVP membership (\$25).
- All coaches must complete the [AVPA Coaching Pass](#) (\$50), which is valid from 1/1 to 12/31 each year.
- There is no limitation to the number of teams an individual can coach at an AVP tournament. However, for adult divisions, each team is limited to only one designated coach at any particular tournament. For AVPJuniors events and junior divisions, each team may have multiple coaches within their club.
- All coaches are under the direct authority of the Tournament Director during the tournament.
- All coaches must collect their accreditation for the tournament at the designated check-in tent at the event.
- All coaches must represent the AVP in a positive and professional manner or may be removed by the Tournament Director.
- Coaches are responsible for knowing all rules and regulations governing them.
- If the coaches' behavior is demeaning to the AVP and/or its players, they can be barred from coaching on site.
- All coaches shall remain outside the media, DJ, and staff tents unless invited.
- Only a coach is allowed to drill his/her players on the playing court until the time at which there are seven minutes (when the referee conducts the coin toss) remaining in the warm-up period. At that point, the coach will leave the playing court. To participate in the warm-up, a coach must have a coach accreditation for that event and have nominated the team they are warming up. Coaches can stay for the duration of the warm-up if both teams have an accredited coach and all four players agree that both coaches can stay.

In game coaching regulations are as follows:

- Coaches can offer instruction to their team from when the ball is dead until the next serve is authorized.
- Coaches may "walk and talk" during side changes and call time-outs for their teams.
- Coaches are not allowed to interact with the opponent players or the opponent coach.

- Coaches (and other team members) are not allowed to receive information from external sources during an active match (including but not limited to audio, video, and text to a smart device ie: phone, tablet, or smartwatch).
 - Any coach who is deemed to be taking signals from the opposition and forwarding them and any message to their team will be given an automatic red card and be removed from the tournament site for the duration of that event. Such offense is subject to a fine and/or suspension.
- Coaches must observe the following conditions during play and dead ball times:
 - Coaches must be located on the same side of the court as their team. They must move during team switches to prevent stealing of signs from the opposition.
 - Coaches should be either seated in the provided player area or standing or kneeling within 4 feet of that player box when provided.
 - The only exception being able to go onto the court to attend to their players during an extended interruption in play or injury timeout if permitted by the referee and/or medical staff.
 - No coaching will be permitted from any other area on the site.
- Coaches are not able to interact with the officials at any time, other than to call a timeout:
 - Interaction with officials includes questioning judgment or similar outbursts during or between rallies.
 - Coaches are not allowed to attempt to influence officials under the guise of coaching their players.
 - Interaction with the players can not in any manner delay the pace of play
 - Delays in pace of play or coach interaction with the officials will be dealt with administratively
 - Sanctions can range from a verbal warning to a yellow card or red card / monetary fine as the situation warrants
- Additional Coaching Responsibilities are outlined in Appendix B

4.0 COMPETITION RULES

4.1 General Competition Rules

Tournaments shall be conducted according to the rules set forth in the most recent version of AVP America Rulebook. In the event of a conflict between the AVP America Rulebook and the codes set forth in the AVP America Player Handbook, the competition rules set forth in the AVP America Rulebook shall prevail.

4.2 Time When Play is Dead/Player Time-Outs

4.2.1 Player Request

A player may ask for a time-out only if the ball is “out of play”, or there is a “dead ball” (after the whistle stops play, and before the 5 second service whistle.)

4.2.2 Regular Time-Out

Each team is permitted one time-out per set. The referee will indicate a regular time-out by signaling “time-out” and pointing to the team requesting the time-out, Time-outs are 60 seconds from the start of the referee signaling the time-out (physically and vocally). The team charged with the time-out may end it prior to the expiration of the full 60 seconds. Both teams will resume play immediately.

In sets one and two, one additional 60-second Technical timeout will be available when the sum of points scored by both teams equals 21, there will be no Technical time-out for set 3.

All of the above time-outs may be modified/reduced/increased to accommodate weather or other time constraints.

4.2.3 Injury Time-Out

If a player is injured, play continues until there is a stoppage. The referee will then determine the nature of the injury. Time-out for an injury shall not exceed 5 minutes. Time will begin when medical assistance arrives on the court (if available at the event). If a player elects not to have the medical assistance on the court (or if it is not available at the event), the clock will immediately begin. A later request for the doctor will not reset the clock. At the conclusion of the five-minute time out, the referee will whistle and request that the player continue. At this time, the player ONLY shall make final judgment whether he/she is fit to play.

If a player is unable to return to the playing area at the conclusion of the timeout, his/her team will forfeit the current set. If the team does have a time-out remaining, they can in fact take a time-out immediately after a medical time-out if needed.

The medical professional, called to medical timeout, has authority to end a medical timeout after their full assessment once courtside. If the medical professional does not see that a valid medical timeout is needed, they have authority to conclude the medical timeout immediately.

Each team is limited to one medical timeout per match.

4.2.4 Player Request for Rules Clarification/Protest Procedure

A player has the right to request the presence of the Tournament Director and/or Head Official on-court for the expressed purpose initiating a protest. Protests can occur regarding one of the following scenarios:

- Clarifying a rule or the misapplication of a rule.
- Playing conditions (temperature, light, sand conditions, etc.)
- Scoring Error

Prior to calling the Tournament Director or Head Official, the referee will speak to both captains and confirm exactly what is being formally “protested.” When the Tournament Director and/or Head Officials arrive at the court, they will first speak to the match official, then speak to each captain separately to hear the situation and render a final decision.

The specific rule or issue being protested cannot change at any time during this process, thus the need for the referee to confirm the issue prior to the inviting of the Tournament Director and/or Head Official.

In no case shall such privilege be extended to situations where the referee’s judgment is solely in question.

When a player requests a protest, the referee will suspend play so the Tournament Director and/or the Head Official can make a ruling on the protest. The Tournament Director and/or Head Official’s ruling will be final and binding. Immediately after the Tournament Director and/or the Head Official have rendered the protest decision, the referee will invite players to take their position on the court for play to resume immediately.

4.4 IV Policy

- If a player is administered an intravenous injection during any time at an AVP event except immediately prior to the finals, the player shall be ineligible to play in any remaining matches that day and shall forfeit all such matches even if the medical personnel or tournament director deems such IV injection necessary. A player can continue competition the next day if the match forfeitures do not eliminate them from competition. Immediately prior to the finals only, if a player needs an IV to stop cramping, the player will remain eligible to compete in finals but will still incur a fine.

4.5 Withdrawals/Partner Changes/Defaults

4.5.1 Withdrawal from Tournament

- A. Withdrawals of teams from a tournament after the registration deadlines will not be allowed, unless there is an injury or extenuating circumstances. In the event of withdrawal due to an injury or an approved extenuating circumstance, no sanction will be applied. If withdrawal is due to an injury, players must submit a letter from a licensed

physician to the AVP office attesting to the existence of the injury and why the injury prevented participation.

- B. In the case of a withdrawal by a team entered for any reason other than a verified injury or approved extenuating circumstance, registration fee will not be refunded.
- C. A team that withdraws prior to the start of a tournament by 9pm local time the day before the commencement of the event will not earn a finish or points in that event. They may be subject to the provisions of Sections 4.6.1a-b.
- D. A team in the Main Draw that withdraws prior to the start of a tournament after 9pm local time the day before the commencement of the event will forfeit all scheduled matches. AVP will make every effort to replace this team in the same manner as 4.6.1d. If replaced, the withdrawing team will not earn a finish or points in that event and may be subject to the provisions of Section 4.6.1a-b.

4.5.2 Partner Changes

- A. As a general rule, players may not change partners after the entry deadline. If a team is unable to compete together in the tournament after the deadline, such team shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the event and the provisions of Section 4.6.1 above shall apply.
- B. Notwithstanding (a) above, in the case of injury (where an athlete provides a letter from a licensed physician) or an approved extenuating circumstances, participants may request a partner change. AVP reserves the right to deny any change.

4.6 Player Eligibility

Any player with a valid AVP membership shall be eligible to participate in an AVPNext, AVP Grass Tour and AVPJuniors tournament. Certain junior events require bids to compete.

4.6.1 Foreign Players

Anyone can participate in AVPNext, AVP Grass and AVPJuniors events. Foreign players are permitted to compete.

4.7 Entry and Seeding

4.7.1 Tournament Entry

- Entry into a tournament will be determined on a first come, first served basis where space is limited.

4.7.2 Seeding

For non-pro players, all teams are seeded in accordance with the following policy:

- An athlete's best four (4) results (domestic or international) amongst all AVP and USAV platforms within the eligible window.
- The eligible window is defined as within the last 365 days for non-Pro players.

4.8 Weather

In the event that a portion of competition at a scheduled tournament is canceled due to weather conditions, an act of God, fire, flood, war, public disaster, strikes or labor difficulties, governmental enactment, regulation or order, or any other cause beyond the control of the AVP, AVP reserves the right to cancel or modify the format of the tournament.

The decision to cancel the tournament is solely within the discretion of the AVP. AVP reserves the right to attempt to play the tournament for two consecutive days up to and including the first Tuesday following the scheduled tournament if the site is available.

AVP reserves the right to cancel any event for any reason whatsoever and at any time.

4.9 Discontinued Tournament

4.9.1 Completed Match – Pending and Final

Play will be suspended when inclement weather warrants. The Tournament Director will deliver the decision, and they will determine if and when play is to continue. When play again commences after play has previously been suspended, all matches will continue at that point at which they were discontinued.

The above tentatively completed matches will be deemed final if the Tournament Director cannot reschedule such matches at a reasonable time.

4.9.2 Prize Money Distribution

Teams will be awarded prize money according to their respective finish after the last game, which they have played.

Prize money awarded in a discontinued tournament and/or shortened tournament will be prorated based on the number of rounds played. If all teams are unable to complete a round, they will equally divide the prize money and points applicable to that round. For example, if the tournament is canceled before the final four commences, all four teams will equally divide the money and points

4.9.3 Tournament Title

No team may claim the title to any tournament that is not completed.

4.10 Incomplete Tournament Play

The Tournament Director, with consultation of management, will determine whether or not it is safe to continue tournament play because of questionable weather conditions.

4.10.1 When Play Stops

When the Tournament Director stops play, officials or officiating teams shall immediately:

- Mark down the score
- Note which team was serving
- Note the person who was serving
- Note the side of each team
- Note time of end of play

Upon discontinuation of play, a break will automatically take place. It is the players' responsibility to be available at any time to resume play.

After a break of more than 10 minutes, players will be granted a 5-minute warm up. However, if all 4 players are in agreement, play can resume immediately or with a shortened warm up. After a break of more than one hour, a full warm up of 10 minutes duration is permitted. An exception will be if the Tournament Director properly informs players of the need for accelerated warm up requirements. In this instance, the break cannot be less than 5 minutes.

4.10.2 Accelerated Tournament Policy

The Tournament Director will have the authority to establish an accelerated tournament policy, where the player warm-ups and games may be shortened in an effort to finish the tournament. An announcement concerning such changes must be made by the Tournament Director and reiterated by the court referee at the start of warm up.

4.11 Pregnancy or Injury Points

In the event of pregnancy or serious injury*, the 365-day period used to determine a player's rank will be extended up to an additional 365 days. If a player misses two consecutive seasons due to injury or pregnancy, an additional 365 days may be added, however these points will only be worth 50%.

Practical example -

- Athlete gets hurt and needs to claim an injury point freeze.
- Athlete's points will be frozen once AVP is notified via email.
- Points will be frozen for 365 days (or 365 days from the date of birth for pregnancy claims) aka Date of Restart.
- Best 4 finishes at the time of freeze will be held.
- Once points become unfrozen (Date of Restart), an athlete must replace their 4 frozen finishes by the end of the next FULL season.
- If unable to replace 4 finishes before the end of the next full season, those remaining frozen finishes will be worth 50% for the remainder of that subsequent season.
- Replacement of frozen finishes will be in the order of the oldest to newest of best 4 finishes at time of stoppage claim.
- Replacing your frozen finishes can be with either an AVP America, AVPNext or AVP Tour event.
- A new AVP Tour finish will ALWAYS be used to replace a frozen finish, but a new AVP America or AVPNext finish will ONLY be used to replace a frozen finish if it is higher than that frozen finish it is replacing. If no finishes can be replaced by the end of the next FULL season, then highest new finishes from AVP America/AVPFirst/AVPNext will be used to replace frozen finishes.

A request for point stoppage due to pregnancy or injury must be filed with the AVP immediately upon determination that a player will miss 75% of the open events in a given season. If such a request is not filed within the prescribed time, AVP reserves the right not to grant a player request. Players returning from pregnancy or serious injury must file their request for point reinstatement at least 30 days prior to their return to competition.

During a player's absence due to pregnancy or injury, a player must seek dispensation from the AVP prior to participating in any beach volleyball events. Requests for such dispensation must be submitted to the AVP at least 21 days prior to their participation.

*A serious injury is defined as an injury that prevents a player from participating in 75% of the open events in a given season and must be verified by a letter from a licensed physician, submission of Injury Form in Player Portal and subject to examination by AVP approved physician.

4.12 Forfeit Policy

If a match/set has not begun and a team has to forfeit the match/set, the score will be as follows:

- In a game to 21 points, the score will be 21-11
- In a game to 15 points, the score will be 15-8
- In a game to 28 points, the score will be 28-15

If a match/set has begun and a team forfeits, the score will be as listed above, unless the points earned by the forfeiting team at the time of the forfeit are beyond 11 in a 21 points game, beyond 8 in a 15 point game, or beyond 15 in a 28 point game. If the points earned are beyond as listed, the score will be the points earned to 21, 15 or 28 respectively at the time of the forfeit.

4.13 Refund Policy

No refunds will be issued after the date stated on each event registration page at avpamerica.com unless the team has a verified injury or approved extenuating circumstance. Refund deadlines are typically one day after registration closes.

5.0 PLAYER'S CONDUCT, RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 Travel Expenses

- A. Players shall be responsible for all their own travel expenses, including hotel, air, and per diem. Players are encouraged to coordinate travel with other players in order to cut down on costs.
- B. The AVP shall not be required to make any contributions toward expenses of players competing in an AVP tournament.

5.2 Player Performance

5.2.1 Appearance

All players shall at all times conduct themselves with due regard to social conventions and decency at AVP events.

5.2.2 Knowledge of the Rules

Each player shall maintain a comprehensive knowledge of the AVP America rules. Players shall also maintain knowledge of the player's standards and policies as outlined in this Player Handbook..

5.2.3 Players Tent

The player tent (when provided) is for athletes, AVP approved medical staff, coaches, and AVP staff only. No family members, friends, personal attendants, personal medical staff or anyone else is allowed in the player tent.

5.2.7 Players Apparel

Junior athletes will be required to wear a top that covers their midriff while standing and full coverage bottoms. Uniforms are not required, however, matching color tops and bottoms are encouraged.

5.3 Team Default (“No-Show”)

A team is considered to have ‘defaulted’ on their commitment to play if they were entered in the tournament and if one or both of the players do not arrive in time for any match. Match times displayed on the bracket for the first two rounds are guaranteed earliest start times. If your court is delayed or does not have a start time, your match WILL START 10 minutes after the previous match ends. If one or both players are not present at the start of the match there will be an additional 10 minute window to start the first set. If the first set has not begun after those 10 minutes, the first set is forfeit. If the missing player/team is still not present after 15 minutes from the match start time, the match will be forfeit. It is the player’s responsibility to confirm their final seeding and start time. AVP reserves the right to change start times at its discretion. Accordingly, players should arrive at the event at least thirty minutes prior to the scheduled start of competition each day. In the event of a “No Show”, the player(s) shall be subject to the following:

- The defaulting team’s players will be sanctioned with a Default Fine of \$50 each. If one of the defaulting team’s players is ready to compete at the scheduled time then the fine for that player may be waived. The other player who was not ready to compete at the scheduled time will be fined.
- This fine must be paid prior to the registration deadline for the next event that the player(s) wishes to enter. If the fine payment is not received by the registration deadline for that event, the entry will not be accepted.
- If a player(s) defaults for a second time, the player(s) will be sanctioned with an increased Default Fine of \$100, and, in AVP’s discretion, may be suspended from playing for one or more subsequent events.
- Teams who default will NOT receive prize money, a finish, or ranking points for the event.

5.4 Team Default Once Competition Commences

- A. Once a tournament commences, any player who is scheduled to compete but fails to return to the competition will not receive any points or prize money for the tournament, unless excused by the Tournament Director. Players who leave the event due to medical reasons must get approval from both the Tournament Director and official medical personnel at the event.
- B. If a team defaults a match during competition, such team shall be disqualified from the tournament, subject to fine and shall forfeit all prize money earned at said event. In addition, such team faces possible suspension.
- C. A team may default a set and continue participating in the match.
- D. Teams that miss their officiating assignments will be sanctioned with a fine of \$50 per player.

- E. This fine must be paid prior to the registration deadline for the next event that the player(s) wishes to enter. If the fine payment is not received by the registration deadline for that event, the entry will not be accepted.

5.5 Conduct/Fines

A player is subject to a red card penalty¹ at the referee's discretion for committing the following violations:

- A. Players shall not persistently address the official with regard to decisions during play.
- B. Players shall not make derogatory remarks about or to an official, either on or off the court.
- C. Players shall not make personal or derogatory remarks about or to opponents or spectators.
- D. Players shall not taunt an opponent on or off the court of play during a match.
- E. Players shall not use profanity.
- F. Players shall not kick or hit the ball out of playing area during play, during a side change or after the game.
- G. Players shall not intentionally damage tournament equipment, hang on the net, kick banners or throw any objects.
- H. Players shall not physically assault or intimidate officials, opponents, AVP staff or spectators.
- I. Players shall not act in a manner that intentionally slows the game.
- J. Physical assault of any referee, tournament official or any other tournament participant by any player, shall result in automatic disqualification, a fine and immediate disqualification from participation in any future sanctioned tournaments of the AVP for a period determined by the AVP in its sole discretion. Depending on the nature of the assault, a player may be disqualified for life.
- K. Any other actions that are deemed by the referee to greatly fall below the level of positive and professional conduct required of players, or actions that offend the traditional norms of the AVP community or the community in which the event is being held.

¹ A red card is a penalty that results in an automatic fine of \$100, which will be deducted from prize money. A red card results in the loss of a rally. When a team is penalized with a red card, the opposing team is awarded a point.

In addition to the automatic \$100.00 fine for a red card, AVP shall have the discretion to impose additional fines, suspensions and/or expulsion for any and all of the behaviors set forth in AVP Rulebook.

5.5.2 Gambling and other Unsportsmanlike Conduct

All participants (players, coaches, officials, and management) in tournaments and meetings under the authority of AVP have a duty to conduct themselves in a reasonable and acceptable

manner. They must avoid all unsportsmanlike conduct, acts or practices that are, in the opinion of AVP, detrimental to the sport.

A player found to be in violation with any of the following rules shall be automatically fined \$1,000.00 and shall also be subject to suspension and possible permanent expulsion from the AVP:

- A. A player shall not bet money or anything else of value on a formal volleyball competition in which the player is a competitor.
- B. A player shall not offer or give a bribe, gift, payment, reward or anything of value to any other player with the intention of influencing the player efforts in a competition; nor shall a player solicit, agree to accept a bribe, gift, payment, reward or anything of value offered or given with the intention of influencing the player's efforts in competition.
- C. A player must report promptly to the AVP any known or suspected violations by anyone of the rules enumerated in subsections (a) and (b) above.
- D. Players shall not gamble in any manner related to AVP pro beach volleyball.
- E. A player may not use any AVP mailing list for personal or business related matters. The list is for competition exclusively.

5.5.3 Unlawful Harassment

AVP shall take all reasonable steps to prevent discrimination and harassment from occurring. In addition to prohibiting other forms of unlawful discrimination, AVP maintains a strict policy prohibiting sexual harassment and harassment because of gender, genetic characteristics or information, race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, creed, physical or mental disability, cancer-related medical condition, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation and age, or any other basis protected by applicable law. All such harassment is prohibited. AVP's anti-harassment policy applies to all AVP employees, players and independent contractors involved in the operations of AVP and prohibits harassment by any employee of AVP including independent contractors.

Sexual Harassment

Federal and state law defines sexual harassment as unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or visual, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when: (1) submission to such conduct is made a term or condition of employment; or (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as basis for employment decisions affecting the individual; or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an player's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

This definition includes many forms of offensive behavior. The following is a partial list:

- Unwanted sexual advances.
- Offering employment-related benefits in exchange for sexual favors.
- Making or threatening reprisals after a negative response to sexual advances.
- Visual conduct: leering, making sexual gestures, displaying sexually suggestive objects or pictures, cartoons or posters.

- Verbal conduct: making or using derogatory comments, epithets, slurs, sexually explicit jokes, comments about an individual's body or dress.
- Verbal sexual advances or propositions.
- Verbal abuse of a sexual nature, graphic verbal commentary about an individual's body, sexually degrading words to describe an individual, suggestive or obscene letters, notes or invitations
- Retaliation for reporting harassment or threatening to report harassment.

It is unlawful for any gender or nonbinary to sexually harass any other gender or nonbinary. Sexual harassment on the job is unlawful whether it involves employees of AVP who are co-workers or supervisors, or by persons doing business with or for AVP, including independent contractors.

5.5.4 Preventing Sexual Harassment

AVP's Complaint Procedure:

- AVP's complaint procedure provides for an immediate, thorough and objective investigation of any sexual harassment claim, appropriate disciplinary action against one found to have engaged in prohibited sexual harassment, and appropriate remedies to any victim of harassment.
- Players who believe they have been sexually harassed, including by persons doing business with or for AVP, should provide a written or verbal complaint to the Chief Operating Officer of AVP as soon as possible. The complaint should include details of the incident(s), names of individuals involved and the names of any witnesses. Supervisors and managers must immediately refer all harassment complaints to the Chief Operating Officer.
- All incidents of sexual harassment that are reported shall be investigated. The Chief Operating Officer will immediately undertake or direct an effective, thorough and objective investigation of the harassment allegations. The investigation will be completed and a determination regarding the harassment alleged will be made and communicated to the player(s) who complained and the accused harasser(s). If AVP determines that sexual harassment has occurred, AVP will take effective remedial action commensurate with the circumstances. Appropriate action will also be taken to deter any future harassment. If a complaint of sexual harassment is substantiated, appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, will be taken. Whatever action is taken against the harasser will be communicated to the individual who complained, and AVP will take appropriate action to remedy any loss to the individual resulting from the sexual harassment.

5.5.5 Additional Enforcement Information

In addition to AVP's internal complaint procedure, players should also be aware that the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) investigate and prosecute complaints of sexual harassment in employment. The addresses and telephone numbers of these agencies can be found in the telephone directory.

5.5.6 Other Types Of Unlawful Harassment

In addition to sexual harassment, AVP's policy prohibits all types of harassment which are based on a player's gender, genetic characteristics or information, race, color, creed, sex, marital status, age, national origin or ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, veteran status, sexual orientation or any other basis prohibited by federal, state or local law. All such harassment is prohibited. The policies and procedures described above apply to all types of unlawful harassment and players should feel free, without fear of retaliation, to follow the procedures set forth above if they believe they have been unlawfully harassed.

For more information, contact the Management of AVP.

5.6 Disciplinary Action Continued – Fines, Penalties, Suspension, Expulsion

5.6.1 Right to Discipline

AVP has the right to impose fines, penalties, suspensions, expulsions and any other disciplinary action it deems necessary or appropriate in its sole discretion, and deduct the amount thereof, if any, from any monies due or that will become due to the player.

5.6.2 Player's Opportunity to Address Disciplinary Action and/or Air Grievances

If a player believes he/she has been unfairly disciplined or has a general grievance, the player may seek clarification directly from or bring its grievance directly to the AVP. The AVP will in good faith consider the matter, and render its opinion or decision in a timely manner.

5.6.3 Payment of Fines - Payment Deadline

- A. All imposed fines must be paid to AVP prior to entering a tournament.
- B. Failure to pay fines on time will result in additional fines and suspensions from tournaments as determined by the AVP Management.
- C. Fines, including any failure to pay penalties, which are not paid before the end of the year, may result in subsequent player suspension from AVP membership.
- D. If a fine is not paid at the tournament in question, AVP shall have the right to deduct such fine from the player's winnings from the tournament. If the player has no winnings, and

the fine is not paid before entering another tournament, the player will be suspended from all AVP events until the fine is paid. To this end, each player who enters a tournament is subject to the player's fine being deducted from the player winnings. The player thereby consents to the payment of the player's prize money directly to the AVP to the extent of such a fine or fines, and releases any and all persons from any liability for failure to pay the prize money to the player instead of to the AVP.

- E. All automatic fines will be deducted from prize money earned without prior written notice to the player provided verbal communication of such offense has been given to the player at the time the offense occurred.

6.0 PERIODIC AND DISCRETIONARY CHANGES TO THE HANDBOOK

AVP will update this handbook periodically and will make every effort to communicate this to all interested parties. It is the responsibility of any interested parties to continually monitor this document and be aware of any changes.

AVP reserves the right to make discretionary changes to this player handbook at any time.

7.0 AVP CONTACTS

Event Inquiries: avpamerica@avp.com

Prize Money Inquiries: avpnext@avp.com

Appendix A : COACHING PROCEDURES AND POLICY

I. INTRODUCTION

There has been a continuing increase in the number of coaches utilized at events. This is a positive indicator of the growth of the sport and also the value that the players put on coaching in a sport where coaching has historically been an afterthought. Each of you is a representative of a small, but significant group, and each of you comes under constant scrutiny. Players, other coaches, AVP sponsors and the AVP fans are observing you at every tournament.

It is important to realize that the increased significance and exposure of coaching also brings added responsibility. As one of a small but significant group, each of you plays an important role with regard to the future stature of coaching beach volleyball. The manner in which you handle yourself as a professional will have a direct bearing on how coaches as a group will be perceived.

In order to conduct yourself as a professional, it is important that you understand clearly what is expected of you. With this in mind, the AVP coaching policies and procedures provided below should give you a clear understanding of how each of you will be expected to conduct yourself as a professional and as a coach at events.

II. COACHING PROCEDURE

The Coach and Their Team(s)

There is no limitation to the number of teams an individual can coach at an AVP tournament. However, for adult divisions, each team is limited to only one designated coach at any particular tournament, unless otherwise cleared by the Tournament Director.

Registration and Payment

A prospective coach can **only** register as a coach online prior to an event. Coaches must complete all the requirements in order to coach at this event:

- **Background Screening** must be completed and cleared one week prior to event start date.
- Active SILVER **AVP Membership**
- **AVP America Coaching Pass** to be completed one week prior to event start date
- Make sure you know the **Coaching Rules** that were included in the AVP America Coaching Pass.

Credentials

Each accredited coach will pick up a credential from the designated check-in tent at each tournament. The credential is to be worn and visible at all times while you are on site as it will provide you access to the event, the playing courts at which your team plays and the player tent.

Appearance

As a professional, the manner in which you present yourself is important. While it is mandatory that you wear a shirt and shorts, trunks or bathing suit bottom any time that you are coaching at a court, even while you are not coaching but on site, you should be cognizant that your appearance is an important consideration with regard to how you are perceived.

Player and Referee Tents

Coaches may use the player tent for shade and relaxation. Coaches will always handle themselves in a thoroughly professional manner while in the player tent. It is never appropriate for a coach to be in the referee tent.

Filming & Photography

Coaches are permitted to film matches. Once a match at which you are coaching has started, you are not permitted to be involved in the filming in any way thereafter until the match is over. You are not allowed to attend to your camera during the match. A coach may film matches in which their team is not participating, however such filming must be done in a manner that is not in any way intrusive to the participants or spectators.

Coaches are not allowed to conduct still photography during a match they are coaching.

Coaching (“Drilling”) Players on the Court

A coach is allowed to drill their players on the playing court until the time at which there are seven minutes (when the referee conducts the game to decide starting sides) remaining in the warm-up period. At that point, the coach will leave the playing court. To participate in the warm-up a coach must have a coach accreditation for that event and have nominated the team they are warming up.

Coaches can stay for the duration of the warm-up if both teams have an accredited coach and all four players agree that both coaches can stay.

Coaching and Playing

An individual cannot participate in an event as both a player and a coach. Each event is considered individually and separately in this regard, so an individual may participate as a coach *or* as a player, but not both, at any particular event as he or she chooses.

Gambling and Unsportsmanlike Conduct

All participants (players, coaches, officials, and management) in tournaments and meetings under the authority of AVP have a duty to conduct themselves in a reasonable and acceptable manner. They must avoid all unsportsmanlike conduct, acts or practices that are, in the opinion of AVP, detrimental to the sport.

A coach found to be in violation with any of the following rules shall be automatically fined \$1,000.00 and shall also be subject to suspension and possible permanent expulsion from the AVP:

- A. A coach shall not bet money or anything else of value on a formal volleyball competition in which the coach has a team competing.
- B. A coach shall not offer or give a bribe, gift, payment, reward or anything of value to any other coach or player with the intention of influencing the coach or players efforts in a competition; nor shall a coach solicit, agree to accept a bribe, gift, payment, reward or anything of value offered or given with the intention of influencing the participants efforts in competition.
- C. A coach must report promptly to the AVP any known or suspected violations by anyone of the rules enumerated in subsections (a) and (b) above.
- D. Coaches shall not gamble in any manner related to AVP pro beach volleyball.
- E. A coach may not use any AVP mailing list for personal or business related matters. The list is for competition exclusively.

III. COACHING POLICY DURING A MATCH

Dress / Appearance

- A coach **must** wear his/her credential while coaching a match.
- A coach is expected to dress and maintain his/her appearance at the court in a manner consistent with the dignity and integrity of the sport. Beyond this requirement, a coach courtside will at all times wear minimally a shirt and shorts.

Location

- Coaches must be located on the same side of the court as their team. They must move during team switches to prevent stealing of signs from the opposition.
- Other than side changes, coaches should be either seated in the provided player box (when provided) or standing or kneeling within 4 feet of that player box.
- The only exception being able to go onto the court to attend to his/her players during an extended interruption in play or injury timeout if permitted by the referee and/or medical staff.
- No coaching will be permitted from any other area on the site.
- A coach may leave a match in progress to coach another of their teams at a different match. A coach in such instances may join the subsequent match in progress. A coach is not permitted to leave a match in progress and return to that same match at a later point in time at his/her pleasure as this is potentially disruptive to the match.

Authority

- Coaches can offer instruction to their team before the match begins and after a match finishes.
- During matches they can offer instruction in the following ways:
 - To their team from when the ball is dead until the next serve is authorized.
 - They may “walk and talk” during side changes and call time-outs for their teams.
- The following restrictions apply to coaches during matches:
 - Coaches are not allowed to interact with the opponent players or the opponent coach.
 - Coaches (and other team members) are not allowed to receive information from external sources during an active match (including but not limited to audio, video, and text to a smart device ie: phone, tablet, or smartwatch).
 - Any coach who is deemed to be taking signals from the opposition and forwarding them and any message to their team will be given an automatic red card and be removed from the tournament site for the duration of that event. Such offense is subject to a fine and/or suspension.
 - Coaches are not able to interact with the officials at any time, other than to call a timeout:
 - Interaction with officials includes questioning judgment or similar outbursts during or between rallies.
 - Coaches are not allowed to attempt to influence officials under the guise of coaching their players.
 - Interaction with the players can not in any manner delay the pace of play
 - Delays in pace of play or coach interaction with the officials will be dealt with administratively.
 - Sanctions can range from a verbal warning to a yellow card or red card / monetary fine as the situation warrants.

Behavior

- A coach may not address the Tournament Director, Director of Officials, match officials, or opposing players before, during, or after a match while on site with regard to officiating, player conduct, playing conditions or any other subject matter that impacts the competition. A coach is **not** considered a team spokesperson by tournament officials and will not be allowed to take on that role.
- A coach may not use an audible obscenity or make an obscene gesture within the precincts of the tournament site.
- A coach will not abuse (verbally or physically) tournament officials, players (their players or opposing players), other coaches, spectators, or other persons within the precincts of the tournament site.

Misconduct and Sanctions

- The players a coach represents are responsible for the conduct of their coach. Consequently, officials are instructed to address the coach's players and not the coach if a coach engages in misconduct.
- If coach misconduct occurs during a match, the team will be warned and penalized in accordance with normal yellow and red card procedures.
- The players will be responsible for the payment of any fines suitably assessed by the Tournament Director due to the misconduct of their coach.
- In circumstances that are deemed flagrant or particularly injurious to the success of the tournament, the Tournament Director may at his/her discretion order the coach to be removed from the site of the match or the precincts of the tournament site and upon the coach's failure to comply with such order may declare an immediate default of the coach's team.
- A coach will be subject to having his/her AVP coaching credential revoked by the Tournament Director for a term to be determined by the AVP, including permanently, due to conduct the AVP determines is detrimental to the Tour or the sport of Beach Volleyball.

IV. CONCLUSION

Your cooperation and professionalism is appreciated. If you are not clear on any policy or procedure, please feel free to ask the Tournament Director for clarification. If there are activities or areas of conduct that are not covered above, please ask before you break new ground or conduct yourself in a way that may not meet with approval.

Thank you for working with the AVP in a manner that will bring mutual credibility to the individual coach, the profession of coaching and the AVP.

Appendix B: **PLAYER CONDUCT**

I. **UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT**

Players shall not conduct themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner and shall give due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponents, spectators and others.

- **Ball Abuse**
 - A player shall not violently, dangerously, recklessly, with loss of temper or with negligent disregard of the consequences kick or throw a volleyball within the confines of the tournament site.
 - Violation shall subject a player to a fine of up to \$200 for each violation.
- **Equipment Abuse**
 - A player shall not violently, dangerously, recklessly, with loss of temper or with negligent disregard of the consequences, throw or strike any Tour equipment or other object within the confines of the tournament site.
 - Violation shall subject a player to a fine of up to \$200 for each violation.
- **Verbal Abuse**
 - A player shall not, at any time, verbally abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the confines of the tournament site. Verbal abuse will constitute a statement directed at an official, opponent, spectator or other person that implies dishonesty, or is derogatory, insulting or otherwise abusive.
 - Violation shall subject a player to a fine of up to \$300 for each violation.
- **Additional Unsportsmanlike Conduct**
 - A player shall not engage in any behavior which can be considered abusive or detrimental to the sport and which does not fall within the specific categories above on or off the court.
 - Violation shall subject a player to a fine of up to \$300 for each violation.

II. **OFFENSIVE CONDUCT**

Players shall not conduct themselves in a manner that could be categorized as offensive to reasonable people.

- **Profanity**
 - A player shall not use any audible profanity within the confines of the tournament site. Profanity in this instance shall be any words which are commonly understood to be profane and are audible to the Tournament Director, Head Referee, referee, down official, linesmen, ball retrievers or spectators.
 - Violation shall subject a player to a fine of up to \$300 for each violation.

- **Visible Obscenity**
 - A player shall not make obscene gestures of any kind within the confines of the tournament site. Such an obscenity would constitute a physical signal by a player with his/her hand, body or any equipment that is commonly thought of as obscene by reasonable people.
 - Violation shall subject a player to a fine of up to \$500 for each violation.

III. AGGRESSIVE CONDUCT

Players shall not conduct themselves in a manner that can be considered intimidating, threatening or physically abusive to officials, opponents, spectators or other persons.

- **Aggressive Confrontation**
 - A player shall not aggressively or in an intimidating manner confront an official, spectator, opponent, spectator or other person within the confines of the tournament site.
 - Violation shall subject a player to a fine of up to \$300 for each violation.
- **Aggressive Confrontation at the Officials' Tent**
 - A player shall not aggressively or in an intimidating manner confront an official at the officials' tent.
 - Violation shall result in the player receiving an automatic fine of \$300.
- **Player Shaking Referee Stand**
 - A player shall not at any time shake the referee stand in the course of "discussion" with the referee.
 - Violation shall result in the player receiving an automatic fine of \$250.
- **Verbal Threat**
 - A player shall not overtly or subtly verbally threaten an official, opponent, spectator or other person within the confines of the tournament site.
 - Violation shall subject a player to a fine of up to \$1,000.
- **Physical Threat**
 - A player shall not by his/her actions engage in behavior that can be construed as physically intimidating or threatening to any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the confines of the tournament site.
 - Violation shall subject a player to a fine of up to \$2,500. In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a tournament, or are singularly egregious, a single violation of Physical Threat shall also constitute the player Major Offense of Aggravated Behavior.
- **Physical Abuse**
 - A player shall not physically abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the confines of the tournament site. Physical abuse can constitute the mere unauthorized touching of an official, opponent, spectator, or other person.

- Violation will subject a player to a fine of up to \$5000. In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a tournament, or are singularly egregious, a single violation of Physical Abuse shall also constitute the player Major Offense of Aggravated Behavior.
- **Leaving the Playing Court**
 - A player shall not leave the playing court during warm-ups, during a match or immediately following a match to aggressively confront an official, opponent, spectator or other person.
 - Violation will subject a player to a fine of up to \$5000. In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a tournament, or are singularly egregious, a single violation of leaving the Court shall also constitute the player Major Offense of Aggravated Behavior.

IV. MAJOR OFFENSE OF AGGRAVATED BEHAVIOR

No player at any AVP Tour event shall engage in Aggravated Behavior as follows:

- **Singular incident**
 - One incident of behavior that is flagrant, singularly egregious, and particularly injurious to the AVP Tour or AVP Tournaments.
 - Violation will subject a player to a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or suspension from the AVP Tour for a minimum period of seven days and a maximum period of one year.
- **Multiple Incidents**
 - A series of two or more violations within a twelve-month period which singularly do not constitute aggravated behavior, but when viewed together establish a pattern of conduct that is collectively egregious and is detrimental or injurious to the AVP Tour or AVP tournaments.
 - Violation will subject a player to a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or suspension from the AVP Tour for a minimum period of seven days and a maximum period of one year.

Appendix C : POOL PLAY PROCEDURES

The Pool Phase can be completed in the following ways:

MODIFIED POOL PLAY

The highest seeded team will play the lowest seeded team in the same pool, while the 2nd highest seeded team will play the 3rd highest seeded team in the same pool. The winners of the above two matches will play each other, with the winner to top the pool and the loser as 2nd ranked team from the pool phase. The losers of the above two matches will play each other, with the winner as the 3rd ranked team from the pool phase and the loser eliminated from the Pool Phase.

STANDARD POOL PLAY

All teams in a pool will play each other. They will be ranked in order of number of wins. The tie breaker procedure for seeding will be as follows:

- 2-way tie: If two teams have the same amount of wins, the winner of the match between those two teams will be allocated the higher position.
- 3 or more way tie: relative record between the tied teams. The team that performed best against the tied teams receives the top finish of the tie. Match ratio is compared first (when possible), then set ratio, then point ratio. If a tie still exists between any or all of the teams those teams will then be compared by their set ratio and point ratio from all pool results. If still tied the positions will be awarded in seed order.

The tie breaker procedure to determine which teams make it out of pool is as follows:

- Teams in a pool that are tied for a spot in the playoffs will play a game to 15 points. The winning team will move on to the playoffs

PROGRESSION FROM POOL PLAY INTO PLAYOFFS

Teams will be reseeded for playoffs based on their pool play performance.

Teams from the same pool might play each other in the 1st round of playoffs depending on their playoff seed.