

**LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP
WINTER VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE
RULES for the 2025/2026 SEASON**

Playing Rules

Official rules for the current league season will be the 2021/2023 USA volleyball rules (usavolleyball.org), including let serve and rally scoring. The exceptions are the libero substitution (Rule #14) and the following league operation rules.

League Operation Rules

1. Team players must be registered on the roster. Each team must have a minimum of ten (10) players but there is no maximum limit. Players must be registered at least 24 hours before they participate in a match. Additions may be made by written request via email to: jwalters@lowerpaxton-pa.gov
2. Players may be added to the roster until Friday, February 27, 2026. (ONLY captains may contact the office to add or drop players from the roster.) All players participating in playoff matches must have played in at least two (2) matches during the regular season to be eligible. See Rule No. 5 for penalty.
3. A player dropped or switching from one team may be added to another team with no obligation to their original team. Both team captains are responsible to contact the office in writing when deleting or adding players; HOWEVER, he/she may not play for the new team until two (2) matches for the new team have passed, if the new team is in the same division. Players switching divisions may play for the new team as per Rule #1. Keep in mind Rule #11 when switching divisions. Players may be listed on only one (1) roster at any time, unless there is Co-Rec division. This rule does not apply to teams that are dropped from the league or that break up.
4. All players are to be voluntary members of a team. Sponsors will not subsidize players in any manner other than the team entry fee and uniforms under penalty of team disqualification from the league.
5. A team shall forfeit any game in which an ineligible player participates.
6. Judgment calls made by the referee are not debatable. Protests on rules interpretations are legal; however, all protests should be resolved as they occur. If either team is not satisfied with the resolution of the protest, both captains and the official will write their remarks on paper and sign their signatures. The protesting team or teams will submit a thirty-five dollar (\$35) check payable to Lower Paxton Township and the written protest within 24 hours from their match time. The protest will be resolved following receipt of the check. The alleged offending team will have the option to appeal all charges. The team will then have to submit a written appeal and a thirty-five dollar (\$35) check within 24 hours after official notification. A decision will be rendered and the loser's check retained by the Department. All decisions will be final! If the protest is a rule interpretation and not a rule infraction and the protest is upheld, then both teams will be notified of the time and place for completion of the protested game.
7. If a team is unable to floor four (4) players within five (5) minutes of the scheduled starting time an automatic forfeiture of the first game will result. If after ten (10) minutes of the scheduled starting time a team cannot floor four (4) players, an automatic forfeiture of the second game will result. If after fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled starting time a team cannot floor four (4) players the final game will be forfeited and match concluded. Lineups for teams playing with less than six (6) players will permit three (3) front line players at all times, even if the team declares an initial open position in the front line. Teams wishing to include a player in an open position may

do so by calling for substitute anytime the ball is dead. The lineup shall be backed up one position to accommodate the player entering the previously open position, when appropriate. Each team is permitted one (1) forfeit per season without penalty. After the first forfeited match, a \$20 fee will apply. Any matches scheduled between the second or subsequent un-notified forfeits and payment of the fee will be declared forfeits.

8. The entry fee will be \$612 for any team representing a sponsor from Lower Paxton Township or having 50% or more of its players as residents. Teams not falling into either category will be charged forty dollars (\$40) more. To qualify as a sponsor a legitimate business must prove to the Parks and Recreation Department that it is providing at least half of the entry fee. Without such proof the team will be required to pay the higher fee. The entry fee is determined before the beginning of each season and will be based on the projected expenses and expected maximum number of teams. Any team that registers under the lesser entry fee and through roster additions or deletions does not later qualify for that category will be required to pay the appropriate surcharge before any further matches are played. Teams registering under the higher entry fee and later qualifying for the lesser fee will be refunded the difference upon request. Neither of these options are valid after mid-season.

9. The Parks and Recreation Department will assign one referee per match.

10. A player will be considered to be USAV registered if he/she has been registered within any of the previous two (2) seasons. For example, for our 25/26 season a player would be considered registered if he/she has played in the 22/23 USAV season. The burden of proof for any alleged violations rests with the protesting team or individual. Players registering for the first time and any registered "junior" level players shall not be considered registered for purposes of this league. A USAV player is considered registered from September to May, which would be recognized as their first year (i.e. if USAV registration is September 2022 to May 2023 and a player registers *January 2023* they will be considered a second year player when registering for the Lower Paxton League in *September of 2024*).

11. No USAV registered players are permitted on "B" or "BB" division rosters. **No exceptions!** USAV "B" level players will not be restricted in the "A", "AA" level. Only two (2) USAV "BB" or above classified players are permitted on "A" division rosters; however, only one (1) may be on the court at any given time. No AA^{AA} sanctioned player limit. USAV information is available to the Parks and Recreation Department and will be checked.

12. All members of the team shall have a numbered jersey. Numbers shall not be duplicated, and numbers must be whole numbers between 1 and 99, at least six (6) inches in height, located on the front or back of the shirt, and of contrasting color to the jersey. Jerseys need not be of the same style or color, although this is preferred.

13. USAV substitution procedures will be used for all divisions. The captain or coach can request a substitution at any time that the ball is dead. The player can also enter the substitution zone to request a substitution. The number of the substitute and the player being substituted must be clearly given to the official keeping score. Substitutes must be immediately ready to enter the game.

Unlimited substitutions are permitted. A substitute shall take the position of the player being replaced. No change shall be made in the relative positions of the other players or the serving order. A player re-entering the game shall be in the same position in relation to teammates though not necessarily in the same court position. Once entered into a game a player is committed to that position only in relation to teammates.

14. **LIBERO PLAYER** - The Libero player is a defensive specialist who plays only in the back row. This position is optional.

- A team may designate only one (1) Libero player per game.
- Teams may only use if they have 6 players on the court and the Libero makes a 7th player.
- If your team uses a Libero player, it is required that your team has matching uniforms (at a minimum same color) that clearly show numbers.
- The Libero must be designated before each game and MUST wear a contrasting jersey or pinnies and have a number on it that distinguishes them from their teammates.

Failure to comply with these standard rules will result in the Libero position not being utilized for the match. No exceptions.

The Libero:

- a) May only enter games after starting lineup has been checked.
- b) May exercise one replacement per dead ball prior to the whistle for service.
- c) May replace any back row player, without taking away from the allowed number of substitutions.
- d) Must enter and exit game between the attack line and the end line.
- e) May be the team captain.
- f) May be used as an exceptional substitute for an injured player if no other legal substitutes are available.
- g) Shall not block or attempt to block.
- h) May serve in one player position for the set.
- i) Shall not set the ball using overhand finger action while in front of the attack line extended, for an attack above the height of the net.

15. There are three games per match. The first and second game will be rally scoring to twenty-five (25) points with a cap at twenty-seven (27) points. The third game will be rally scoring to twenty-one (21) with a cap at twenty-three (23). In order to improve match scheduling and in compliance with the desires of the School District, officials have been instructed to begin matches at the posted scheduled time, or five minutes after the completion of the previous match, barring any problems. If your official deviates from these rules, please ask them for an explanation. If this does not suffice, please contact the Recreation office.

16. Ties between teams after all league matches have been completed will be broken by utilizing the total number of games won between the teams involved. If there is still a tie, then the total number of points scored between the teams involved will be used to break the tie. If there is still a tie there will be a one game playoff rally scoring to twenty-five (25) with a twenty-seven (27) cap.

17. Awards for the league will be as follows: Individual awards will be presented for league first and second place winners. Awards are limited to a maximum of 10/team. There will be no playoffs scheduled for three teams or less in a division, first and second place will receive individual awards. Post-season playoffs will receive a team award.

18. Playing location (Dauphin County Technical School), listed on the schedule for any given evening denotes that all matches for the evening are played at that location. Normal playing locations are noted elsewhere on the schedule.

19. Players MUST wear athletic shoes suitable for court use and jewelry can be worn from the head up using smaller studs only, and in accordance with USAV rules. Officials are not required to check for jewelry, but may ask players to remove jewelry for safety reasons. Team captains require responsibility for compliance to this rule.

20. Payment is required at the time of registration -- no exceptions or refunds.
21. Once a team roster and payment is submitted and the registration deadline has passed, absolutely no changes will be accepted, except rule #3 and #9.
22. A team roster with a majority of high school students listed, must present a responsible adult supervisor to be present for games or the roster will not be accepted.
23. The Central Dauphin School District, Dauphin County Technical School and Lower Paxton Township Parks and Recreation and their employees are not liable for any injuries occurring as a result of participation in this program unless willful negligence can be proven. Players should have sufficient medical insurance coverage as a prerequisite to participate in the program.
24. All divisions with four or more teams will have playoffs, with the best of three game matches. The first and second match will be rally scoring to twenty-five (25) with a cap at twenty-seven (27). The third match will be rally scoring to fifteen (15), with a win by two (2), with no cap. The number of teams in the playoffs will be half or less than the number of teams in that division. Seeding of teams for playoffs is determined by the season's overall won/lost record/percentages. In the event of a tie see Rule #16

25.) VOLLEYBALL SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY

No player, captain, or team spectator shall:

- 1) Use foul or derogatory language, threaten, or verbally abuse any other participant or Lower Paxton Township employee before, during, or after the game.
- 2) Intentionally strike, push, or trip another person. Physical altercations are prohibited.
- 3) Mistreat the facility, equipment, or supplies of the school and or Lower Paxton Township.

Warning/Ejection: A warning/ejection system will be used to enforce the sportsmanship policy. Individuals will be issued a warning for unsporting behavior. A second penalty will result in an ejection. Ejections may be issued without warnings in specific situations, including all those that involve fighting and/or aggressive behavior.

Any player, captain, or team spectator receives an ejection from the official, must leave the facility immediately and will be suspended for (1) game immediately following.

Failure to leave the premises will result in a forfeit of the game.

Team captains are responsible for the conduct of their players, sidelines, and spectators.

Officials must notify Parks and Recreation Program Manager Justine Walters when a person is ejected.

Physical altercations is defined as a participant intentionally striking, pushing, slapping, punching, elbowing, tackling, chest bumping or committing any other malicious act toward any other person. Physical altercations are never permitted during the Lower Paxton Township League. Participants who engage in physical altercations will be ejected immediately and suspended from all further participation in the current volleyball season.

The level of discipline shall be determined by the league coordinator, based upon the severity of the infraction.

* Fighting will not be tolerated and will result in your permanent removal from the league and is subjected to charges brought by and filed to the Lower Paxton Township Police. There will be no exceptions to this ruling.

General Rules

Men's divisions **normally** play on Mondays at Dauphin County Vo-tech.

Women's divisions **normally** play on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Dauphin County Vo-tech.

All leagues may be required to play regular season and/or make-up matches on any day designated by Lower Paxton Township Parks and Recreation Department.

Play begins in October and continues through April at Dauphin County Technical (DCT) School, 6001 Locust Lane.

**Every effort is made to have each team play every week with a possible exception of divisions with odd numbers of teams. Holidays and school vacations may cause interruptions.

Winter season is typically 18 weeks. Playoffs will follow regular season.

An adult league, that permits high school players that are enrolled in 9th grade and up.