

Competition Rules

Beach Volleyball

This competition prioritises fun and aims to cultivate a social environment. While a competitive spirit is welcome, it's essential to bear in mind that beginners require positive reinforcement, and an overly aggressive "win at all costs" mindset is not suitable. The Referee holds the authority to interpret all rules, and their decisions are final.

1. Responsibility of Players

All players are responsible for reading and understanding the rules contained in this document. Everyone participating should also understand and comply with the Terms, Conditions and Competition Information.

Players and their associated spectators are not to BYO alcohol to UQ Sport venue or have consumed any drugs or alcohol prior to playing. Condition of Entry are displayed at all facilities and must be adhered to.

If there are any rules that are not clear, please discuss these with the Referee or Convenor prior to the commencement of the game or at half time. Because of time constraints the Referees may not discuss rules or rulings during the game.

Should any player be found to consistently damage equipment, venue apparatuses or other associated materials, they can be suspended from the competition and may be required to pay for damages incurred.

All players should be a minimum of 16 years of age. Team Contacts must be at least 18 years old. Players Under 18 will require a responsible adult to acknowledge their QR code sign in.

2. Responsibilities of the Officials

Referee

The Referee is directly responsible for the game and ensuring the described rules are adhered to. They are responsible for the safety of the players; and the timing and conduct of the game. They have a duty to be respectful and considerate to teams, act in an unbiased manner and ensure the game remains social and enjoyable for all involved.

Convenor

The Convenor is responsible for the management of all the games, teams, venue, equipment and administration. They will be present at all games to ensure First Aid is administered, Incident reporting is followed, competition information is provided, and that all players and officials are conducting themselves in an appropriate manner.

3. Conduct of Players

Please refer to the Terms, Conditions and Competition Information document for information regarding conduct of players, including sanctions guidelines for breaches to conduct.

4. Location

Games will be played on the UQ Sport Beach Volleyball Courts located between the UQ Sport Athletics Centre and UQ Sport Tennis Centre. (See below).

5. Game Commencement

- (a) Teams are required to be present at least ten (10) minutes before the scheduled start of their match to facilitate a seamless transition between games.
- (b) In the event that the game has not commenced by the conclusion of the first set, a 15-0, 15-0, 7-0 forfeit will be recorded, resulting in a 3-0 outcome.
- (c) Should teams be tardy, the game may proceed after the first set; however, the initial set will stand as a 15-0 loss, irrespective of the actual score.

6. Number of Players & Substitutions

In the finals matches, including the quarterfinal, semifinal, and grand final, every player on the court must have both signed in and participated in a minimum of two (2) games to maintain eligibility. Any discovery of an ineligible player on the court during finals will lead to an immediate 3-0 forfeit for the respective team. It is the duty of individual players and Team Contact to ensure the eligibility of all their players for finals matches. Although efforts will be made by the Referee, Convenor, and Competitions Coordinator to address such situations through the QR Code system, the ultimate responsibility lies with the individual players and Team Contact.

- (a) A team is allowed a maximum of six (6) registered/eligible players per fixture. Three (3) registered/eligible players including a minimum of one (1) female player, is the minimum number of players that a team can have without a forfeit result.
- (b) Teams are allowed unlimited substitutions, which may only be made once the ball is out of play. Substitutions may not be made while the ball is in play.
 - i) In cases where there is a minor injury to a player on the court and the ball is still in play, the affected team may request an 'injury' substitution (while the ball is still in play). The point will then be replayed.

- ii) If a player sustains an injury, (whether minor or major) the referee must stop play immediately and call for a reserve. The injured player must leave the court before play can resume.
- iii) An injured player trying to move out of the court while play is still going on may lead to further injuries to themselves or others. Stopping play prevents further injuries.

(c) Teams of four (4) must have at least 1 female on their team.

7. Playing Attire

Uniform

UQ Sport advises players in a team should wear the same colour t-shirt or singlet. However, this is not mandatory.

Shoes

- (a) Sand socks are often used if the sand is too hot or cold. As well as if a player has a cut or skin sensitivity on their feet.
- (b) Players can play barefoot except when authorised by the referee.

Safety

No player can take the court with jewellery of any kind (medical bracelets are permitted). All jewellery (including watches) MUST be removed prior to the game. The Referee will ask any player breaking this rule to remove the piece of jewellery. Only prescription glasses will be allowed. Other types of glasses are not permitted.

8. Game Play

Game play should be conducted in accordance with the FIVB Official Beach Volleyball Rules. The rule book can be found at the following link:

https://www.fivb.com/en/beachvolleyball/thegame_bvb_glossary/officialrulesofthegames

Structure of Play:

In all-round matches, each set consists of 3 sets which are played to 21 points, with the third set played to 15 points, all within a 12-minute timeframe per set.

If the time limit has not lapsed, the set must be won by a margin of 2 points (e.g.,24-22). In the event the time limit expires, the referee will declare a 'Last Serve' - the team with the most points after the final point wins the set, irrespective of a 2-point difference. If there's a tie after the last serve point, an additional point will be played to determine the winner.

For regular season matches, all 3 sets are played, even if one team secures victory in the first 2 sets, concluding the match. If a game starts late (without being deemed a forfeit), it must still conclude at the scheduled time. The Convenor has the discretion to shorten the length of the sets if necessary.

(a) No time outs are permitted.

(b) Finals matches are best of 3 and will follow the same time limits as regular season matches except for if a team has won the first 2 sets the third set will not be played.

(c) There will be a 1-minute intermission between sets.

(d) A coin toss/rock-off is conducted between both playing teams prior to the first set to determine the first serve/playing side. The winning team may choose the right to service/receive or their playing side for the first set. The second set will have the teams swap sides and starting server.

General:

(a) The competition will be split into divisions depending on the number of registered teams.

(b) Teams of Four (4) must have at least 1 female on their team. (See section 6,C).

(c) The first 5 minutes before the game are available for players are able to warm up.

9. Drawn Matches

If the time limit expires, the referee will call for a 'Last serve' - The team with the most points after the final point has been played will win the set, regardless of whether there is a 2-point difference (if it is a tie after the last serve point, an additional point will be played to determine the winner).

10. Scoring and Competition Points

Competition points will be allocated as follows -

- Win – 2 points
- Draw – 1 points (see section 13)
- Loss – 0 point

Should teams finish with equal competition points at the end of the regular season, For/Against will be used to separate the teams ie. (Team A points scored – Team A points scored against). If it is still a tie, the result of the game between those two teams during the season will determine the final position of the teams on the table. If the teams in question did not play each other, or there is still a tie, the team with greater points scored finishes above the other team.

11. Finals

To qualify for participation in the finals (quarterfinal, semifinal, and grand final), players are required to both sign in and play a minimum of two (2) games during the regular season. Utilizing a player who does not meet this eligibility criterion in the final rounds will result in an automatic forfeit and disqualification for the offending team, as outlined in Section 6(e)

All finals matches must have a winning outcome for one team. Same as regular season rules. See section 8.

All players are also required to bring a form of PHOTO ID for the Convener to check player eligibility for every final game. The convener can ask for this at any time, failure to provide may lead to the game being forfeited.

12. Team Fixtures

It is the responsibility of the Team Contact and individual team members to read the draw. All correspondence will be forwarded via e-mail to Team Contacts and will be available through the UQ Sport website, and UQ Sport 'Social Sport' Facebook Page.

Please check the fixtures right up until game day as fixtures can change from time to time.

13. Unforeseeable Acts

The following formula is to be used to determine the result for a game that cannot be completed for whatever reason (e.g. serious injury which impedes court, court unsafe, power outages, rain, etc.).

- A fixture called off anytime in the first half (i.e. in either the first or second set) will be declared a draw, unless one team is leading by a margin of 15 points or more. In this instance the result will stand at the score line when the game is called off.
- A fixture called off anytime in the third set will be determined based on the score line when the game was called off.

For fixtures called off before they commenced, UQ Sport will endeavour to re-scheduled, however due to time constraints for season start and end dates, this may not always be possible.

14. Conduct Breaches – Sanction Guidelines

The Code of Conduct sets standards for respectful, fair, and safe sporting environments. In the event these standards are not upheld, UQ Sport may implement the following sanctions for breaches in conduct. The table below encompasses standards set by the [National Integrity Framework](#) by Sport Integrity Australia.

Offence

	Examples	Minimum Sanction Guideline	Maximum Sanction Guideline
Undirected Physical or Verbal Misconduct	Mistake with an absence of intent to harm. Aggressive tone, swearing (not directed at a specific person), unintended overly physical contact (not involving sexual misconduct); overly competitive behaviour.	Warning (verbal or written)	Warning (verbal or written)
Directed Verbal Misconduct	Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures directed at a team/individual. Use of discriminatory language and/or gestures, including racist, homophobic, religious, ethnic or sexist remarks. May be towards other participants, Officials, or spectators.	Warning (verbal or written)	Suspension for remainder of competition season
Directed Physical Misconduct Against a Match Official	Conduct that intends to cause or causes significant harm. Eg. pushing, striking, kicking, elbowing, headbutting; spitting; intimidation.	Suspension for remainder of competition season	Life
Physical Misconduct	Excessive force when challenging for the ball when it is in play. eg: tackle from behind that endangers the safety of an opponent; pushing; shoving; striking; kicking; elbowing; spitting. Excludes gender based violence/sexual misconduct.	2 matches	Suspension for remainder of competition season
Serious Physical Misconduct	Excessive force or brutality when NOT challenging for the ball, including but not limited to striking, kicking, elbowing, headbutting. This may occur either on the field of play or outside its boundaries; whether the ball is in play or not; against an opponent, team-mate or any other person; or before/after fixture has occurred.	Suspension for remainder of competition season	Life

	<p>Violent conduct of the most serious nature that intends to cause or causes significant harm to any person.</p> <p>Involvement in a brawl (but not if person has tried to prevent a fight, shield others or separate those involved in a brawl).</p>		
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Further to the above:

- Acts of violence or harassment may also be referred to UQ under the [National Code](#), the Police, Human Rights Commission or to Sport Integrity Australia for advice or follow up.
- UQ Sport may determine that the actions of a team member or spectator were of such a nature that it warranted a sanction greater than the maximum guideline. Repeat offences may be taken into consideration.
- Deduction of competition points, suspension from attending UQ Sport venues and facilities, or a recommendation for further education may also apply for conduct breaches.
- If a team member plays in multiple teams or across multiple social sport competitions, the sanction applies to their participation in all UQ Sport social sport competitions.
- Suspension from matches includes participation and spectating.

15. Injury and Insurance

A player may request a 'time' pause in the game due to injury or illness, but the decision to halt play lies solely with the Referee. In the event of an injury, it is the player's or their teammate's responsibility to promptly notify the Referee, who retains the authority to stop the game at any moment.

In cases of minor injuries, the Referee should direct the injured player or a bystander to the Convenor for initial first aid treatment. QR Codes displaying the UQ Sport 'Incident Report' form are visibly placed throughout venues for anyone to report injuries.

If a player sustains a minor injury (or has blood on their clothing or person), they are allotted a maximum of two (2) minutes for on-court treatment (or to remove any signs of blood), or else they will be substituted with another player.

The Referee has the discretion to pause the game for any duration to address emergencies.

In the event of a medical emergency, the Referee should stay with the injured player and designate someone else to inform the Convenor of the emergency.

Many injuries that occur during officially sanctioned and managed UQ Sport activities may be covered by our insurance policy. For further information regarding insurance please email insurance@uqsport.com.au or call 1300 755 293 . Alternatively, you can contact the Competitions Coordinator at socialsport@uqsport.com.au.

UQ Sport Conditions of Entry

1. You must comply with these conditions of entry and follow instructions displayed within the Facilities or given by Us (and any person appointed by Us to manage the Facility) from time to time.
2. You must use the Facilities in accordance with Your membership or booking and, if applicable, strictly only between the times and the dates specified in Your booking.
3. You must not allow any person to use Your membership or student card to gain access to the Facility. Failure to observe this condition may result in eviction from the Facility and Your access rights being immediately cancelled.
4. You are responsible for the conduct of anyone participating with You.
5. Smoking is not permitted in this Facility, or on any University of Queensland campus or recognised site.
6. You must not litter or cause damage to the Facilities. We reserve the right to on-charge for any damage to the Facilities.
7. No alcohol, illegal or offensive substances or items, weapons, glass or sharp objects or oversized items of any kind are permitted in the Facilities.
8. The use of cameras, drones, audio or video recorders and other recording devices within the Facilities is strictly prohibited, unless We specifically advise otherwise.
9. It is a condition of entry that You consent to bag searches and We may confiscate prohibited items and items which in Our opinion may cause injury or a nuisance to other patrons using the Facilities.
10. Protect your valuables as thieves operate on campus despite security patrols and surveillance throughout the campus.
11. Surveillance cameras may be in use at this Facility.
12. Persons under 16 years of age must always be accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult (aged 18 years and older).
13. You must not obstruct entry, exit or general movement of any person using any of the Facilities. Animals are not permitted at any of the Facilities with the exception of assistance animals unless We specifically advise otherwise.
14. We may refuse entry to, or require a person to leave the Facility if the person is abusive, uses offensive language or inappropriate behaviour, is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or the person's behaviour is threatening or offensive to others.
15. We may evict or refuse entry to any person if such eviction or refusal is reasonably necessary to ensure the safety or comfort of other patrons of the Facilities.
16. We reserve the right to close the Facilities at any time without notice for, but not limited to, an emergency, due to current or potential extreme and/or inclement weather, or for maintenance and construction works.
17. You must promptly report to Us any health or safety concerns You become aware of while in the Facilities.
18. Report any incidents, injuries or near misses to Us.
19. You must wear appropriate attire for the activity and non-marking footwear at all times (footwear excepted in the pool).
20. You must not use Our equipment or the Facilities for any other purpose than the relevant sporting activity.
21. Unless otherwise approved by Us, only We are permitted to coach in this Facility.
22. You must carry your student card, membership card or have a valid casual pass or proof of booking when using the Facility.
23. Patrons assume all risk of any damage or loss (including property damage, personal injury, economic and consequential loss) however it arises at this Facility. Patrons bring their personal effects into the Facilities at their own risk. We will not be responsible for any damage or loss or theft of a patron's personal property.
24. Observe and follow any other rules and signage in the Facility.

"You" and "Your" means the person who enters or uses the Facilities. "We", "Our" and "Us" means UQ Sport Ltd ACN 135 537 183, its employees, agents and contractors, and where the context requires, includes the University of Queensland.