



# PLAYER HANDBOOK 2024

AVP League

Last Updated: September 1, 2024

PLAYER HANDBOOK 2024	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 2024 Schedule	5
1.2 Contract Year	5
1.3 AVP Player Agreement	5
2.0 AVP's RESPONSIBILITIES	5
2.1 Regular Season Appearance Fee	
2.1.1 League Players	
2.1.2	
2.2 Regular Season Prize Bonus	
2.3 Championship Weekend Prize Bonus	
2.4 Prize Money Disbursement	
2.5 Travel Expenses	6
3.0 ORGANIZATIONAL REGULATIONS	6
3.1 Competition Format	
3.1.1 League Play	
3.1.2 Match Play and Scoring	6
3.2 Champion Weekend Format	9
3.3 Official's Authority	
3.3.1 AVP Commissioner	9
3.3.2 Competition Director	9
3.3.3 Head Official	9
3.3.4 Officials	10
3.4 Player Qualification Procedures	11
3.5 Coaches	11
3.5.1 Player as Coach	11
3.5.2 Coaching Guidelines	
3.6 Team Assignments	11
4.0 COMPETITION RULES	13
4.1 Competition Regulations	13
4.2 League Results Scoring / Advancing to Championships	
4.3 Regular and Exceptional Game Interruptions	13
4.3.1 Player Request	13
4.3.2 Injury time out	14
4.3.4 Player Request for Rules Clarification/Protest Procedure.	
4.3.5 Ball Mark Challenge	
4.4 Reserve Players	
4.4.1 Returning after an Injury	14

4.5 Player Sideline Areas	15
4.6 Food	15
4.7 Television	15
4.8 Withdrawals/Partner Changes before a League Event	17
4.9 Player Eligibility	19
4.10 Weather	21
4.11 Discontinued Event	22
4.12 Incomplete Event Play	22
4.12.1 When Play Stops	22
4.12.2 Accelerated Event Policy	23
4.13 Emergency Reschedule of Matches	24
4.14 Gender Competition Guidelines	24
4.15 AVP League Regulations	24
5.0 PLAYER'S CONDUCT, RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES	24
5.1 Player Responsibilities	
5.1.1 General Conduct	25
5.1.2. Health	25
5.1.3. Knowledge of the Rules	25
5.1.4. Players Area	26
5.1.5 Player Apparel	26
5.1.6 Athlete Accessories	
5.1.7 AVP Mailing Address	26
5.2 Team Default ("No-Show")	27
5.3 Competition Conduct/Fines	28
5.5.1 Drug Control and Testing	29
5.5.2 Gambling and other Unsportsmanlike Conduct	29
5.5.3 Unlawful Harassment	30
Sexual Harassment	30
5.5.4 Preventing Sexual Harassment	31
5.5.5 Additional Enforcement Information	32
5.5.6 Other Types Of Unlawful Harassment	32
5.6 Disciplinary Action Continued – Fines, Penalties, Suspension, Expulsion	32
5.6.1 Right to Discipline	32
5.6.2 Player's Opportunity to Address Disciplinary Action and/or Air Grievances	33
5.6.3 Payment of Fines - Payment Deadline	33
6.0 PERIODIC AND DISCRETIONARY CHANGES TO THE HANDBOOK	33
7.0 AVP CONTACTS	34

## APPENDICES

A 1 Coach Responsibilities

A 2 Player Conduct

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The AVP League was established in 2024 and comprises an eight-week regular season, showcasing teams from eight U.S. cities: Los Angeles Launch, San Diego Smash, Miami Mayhem, Palm Beach Passion, Austin Aces, Dallas Dream, New York Nitro, and Brooklyn Blaze.

Each city will include a Men's and a Women's Duo, with four athletes per Team. Duos clinch a spot in the 2024 AVP League based on their performance in the 2024 Heritage Series events in Huntington Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Chicago. Their top two of those three finishes are considered. The AVP has the option to grant Wild Card entries.

After the regular season, the League will conclude with a Championship event where one city-based Team will claim the first-ever AVP League Title.

### **1.1 2024 AVP League Schedule**

To view the League schedule, click [HERE](#).

### **1.2 Contract Year**

The contract year shall be defined as a twelve (12) month period commencing on the first day of January, or any portion thereof in the event a player signs the player agreement after January 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024.

### **1.3 AVP Player Agreement**

This Player Handbook shall be subject to all of the terms and conditions contained in the AVP Player Agreement. To the extent of any conflict between this Player Handbook and the AVP Player Agreement, the AVP Player Agreement shall control.

## **2.0 AVP's RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

### **2.1 Regular Season Appearance Fee**

The AVP will pay each player an appearance fee for every weekend of the League they are in attendance.

#### **2.1.1 League Players**

All League players will receive a \$2,500 appearance fee per day, totaling \$5,000 for participating during the weekend. If a League player gets injured, they will receive the appearance fee for the day they were injured, but not the subsequent day.

#### 2.1.2 Reserve Players

Reserve players will receive a \$1,000 appearance fee per day, totaling \$2,000 for the weekend. If a Reserve player is promoted to a League player due to an injury or withdrawal, their appearance fee will remain \$1,000 for that day. If they play the next full day as a League Player, they will receive a \$2,500 appearance fee for that day.

## 2.2 Regular Season Prize Bonus

The four teams with the best record at the end of the regular season will clinch a spot in the Championship tournament and will earn the following per-team prize bonuses.

- 1st place = \$50,000
- 2nd place = \$30,000
- 3rd place = \$20,000
- 4th place = \$10,000

## 2.3 Championship Weekend Prize Bonus

The top four cities will play in the Championship, a single-elimination tournament held over two days. The Championship prize money per team will be:

- 1st place = \$50,000
- 2nd place = \$30,000
- 3rd place = \$20,000
- 4th place = \$10,000

No appearance fee will be paid during the Championship weekend.

## 2.4 Prize Money Disbursement

The payment process is as follows:

- Prize money will be distributed via direct deposit ACH transactions via Payment Labs. Unless otherwise communicated, transactions will be made, in full, no later than 30 business days after the event.
- Prize money won by professionals 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.
- Independent Contractors. The parties hereto are independent contractors and shall be solely responsible for the conduct of their respective operations, employees, and agents in connection with the performance of their obligations under this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement will be interpreted to: (i) make any party a partner, joint venturer, agent, or representative of any other party; (ii)

grant any party any right or authority to assume or create any obligation on behalf of or in the name of any other party; or (iii) authorize any party to accept summons or legal process for any other party.

- Each athlete must create a Payment Labs account to collect payment, giving the platform personal and banking information.
- Players in college must provide a university compliance letter.
- Player information must be created/updated within Payment Labs if one of the following situations applies:
  - If ANY information has changed - name, address, banking, etc.
  - Players will get paid within 30 days but no later than 90 days. If an account has not been created or updated within 30 days after the event in question, 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 [support@prizepayments.com](mailto:support@prizepayments.com)

## **2.5 Travel Expenses**

AVP will provide accommodations for the nights before competition (Friday afternoon through Sunday morning). Athletes will receive a \$100 per diem. Players will be responsible for their own air and ground travel.

## **3.0 ORGANIZATIONAL REGULATIONS**

### **3.1 Competition Format**

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

#### *3.1.1 League Play*

Each weekend, four of the eight League Teams will compete at a designated venue. Each team consists of one Men's Duo and one Women's Duo. Over the course of the weekend, each Duo will play two matches—one on Saturday and one on Sunday. On Saturday, the Duos will compete against a team from one city, and on Sunday, they will face a team from a different city. They will not play against the fourth city competing that weekend. Each day will feature four matches, with two cities going head-to-head in each match.

Example of a Competition Weekend:

#### Day 1

Austin Men v Dallas Men

Austin Women v Dallas Women

LA Women v San Diego Women

LA Men v San Diego Men

#### Day 2

Austin Men v San Diego Men

Austin Women v San Diego Women  
LA Women v Dallas Women  
LA Men v Dallas Men

All regular season matches are League-play style, meaning there is no weekend winner, bracket, prize money, etc., until the Championship weekend.

### *3.1.2 Match Play and Scoring*

Matches will be played as best two out of three sets, with each set going to 15 points. Teams will switch sides at 5 points. To win a set, a team must have a two-point lead, and there is no point cap. Each team is allowed one timeout per set, and there will be no technical timeouts. All standard [USAV rules](#) will apply, except for the exceptions outlined in this Handbook.

## **3.2 Championship Weekend Format**

The four cities playing in the Championship weekend will be seeded based on their regular season performance. The first competition day will see the 1 v 4 seed and the 2 v 3 seed. The following day, the losers will face each other for third place. The winners will play for the AVP League Title. The Championship weekend will follow the same rules of play as the regular season, including best two of three sets to 15 points, must win by two points.

The Championship Weekend Format tiebreakers will mirror those of the 2024 Regular Season, subject to change.

## **3.3 Official's Authority**

### *3.3.1 AVP Commissioner*

The AVP Commissioner is the ultimate authority over the AVP League, including the Competition Director.

### *3.3.2 Competition Director*

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

### *3.3.3 Head Official*

The head official is responsible for assigning all game officials at an AVP event. In addition, the Head Official will address and resolve disputes that occur during matches related to the AVP rules of play. The Head Official and Competition Director may be the same person.



### 3.3.4 Officials

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

## 3.4 League Player Qualification Procedures

Players qualify for the 2024 AVP League through their performance in the three AVP Heritage Series events - Huntington Beach Open, Manhattan Beach Open, and Chicago Open. Their top two finishes out of the three events will qualify them for the League.

In a case of a League qualification tie, a team's Chicago result will be the tiebreaker. In case of a tie in Chicago finish, the two teams will play in one set to 15 in Chicago after the last final to determine who will go to the League.

The AVP reserves two Wild Cards for entrance into the League.

## 3.5 Coaches

### 3.5.1 Player as Coach

A League or Reserve player may not coach another player during an event.

### 3.5.2 Coaching Guidelines

- All coaches must have a current AVP Silver or Gold membership.
- All coaches must [register](#) to coach in the League. Registration for one weekend costs \$75 per event.
- All coaches must pass the AVP background screening. This screening can be found [here](#) and costs approximately \$35.
- There is no limitation to the number of teams an individual can coach at a League Event. However, any AVP team is limited to only one designated coach at any League Event.
- All coaches are under the direct authority of the AVP Commissioner and Competition Director during the event.
- All coaches must collect their accreditation upon entering the venue. Coaches must have their credential at all times and never let another individual wear it, subject to fine and removal or permanent suspension from future opportunities.
- All coaches must represent the AVP in a positive and professional manner or may be removed by the AVP Commissioner or Competition 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 area unless invited in for media purposes.
- Only a coach is allowed to drill their players on the playing court until the time at which there are five 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 clearly indicated 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 (whistle blown).
- 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 event 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 box or kneeling within 4 feet of that player box.
  - The only exception is going onto the court to attend to their player(s) during an extended interruption in play or injury time out 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, including but not limited to:
  - 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

### **3.6 Team Assignments**

The AVP Commissioner will assign teams to each city. Team assignments will be announced shortly after the Chicago Open.

## **4.0 COMPETITION RULES**

### **4.1 Competition Regulations**

Events shall be conducted according to the regulations set forth in the most recent version of AVP League Handbook (this document, located in Athlete Corner) and the FIVB Beach Volleyball Rulebook. In the event of a conflict between the AVP League Handbook and the FIVB Beach Volleyball Rulebook, the competition rules set forth in the AVP League Handbook shall prevail.

### **4.2 League Results Scoring / Advancing to Championships**

The rankings for each city will be determined by the combined win/loss record of their Men's and Women's Duos. If there is a tie at the end of the regular season (example: two teams go 8-8), then it goes to a tiebreaker:

The first tiebreaker is a re-scoring of each win with the following scoring system:

- Win in two sets: 3 points
- Win in three sets: 2 points
- Loss in three sets: 1 points
- Loss in two sets: 0 points

The team with the highest overall score will be ranked higher.

If still tied then:

- Head-to-head record

If still tied then:

- Total match points scored in head-to-head competitions

If still tied then:

- Coin flip

### **4.3 Regular and Exceptional Game Interruptions**

All time outs may be modified, reduced, or increased to accommodate live television or other time constraints.

#### ***4.3.1 Player Request***

A player or coach 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). Each team is permitted one time out per set. The referee will indicate a player-requested time out by signaling "time out" and pointing to the team requesting the time out. At that point, players will be given 15 seconds to get to their player box, 30 seconds in the player box, then finally another 15 seconds to exit the player box for the total 60-second time out.

#### *4.3.2 Technical Time Outs*

There will be no technical time outs in League matches.

#### *4.3.3 Injury Time Out*

If a player is injured, play continues until the rally comes to an immediate conclusion or the referee stops play for safety reasons. The Referee 1 will then determine the nature of the injury. A time out for an injury shall not exceed five minutes. The five minute Recovery Time will begin when medical assistance arrives on the court. If a player elects not to have the medical assistance on the court, the Recovery Time clock will begin immediately after they deny assistance. A later request for the doctor will not reset the clock.

At the conclusion of the available treatment or five minutes (whichever is shorter), the referee will whistle and ask if the player can continue. At this time, the player **only** shall make the final judgment whether they are fit to play. If they are unable to continue, a Reserve player will take their place (see more in Section 4.3).

If the team has their time out remaining, they can take their team- time out immediately after a medical time out, if needed.

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

Each team is limited to one medical time out per athlete, per day.

#### *4.3.4 Player Request for Rules Clarification/Protest Procedure.*

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

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

Prior to calling the Competition Director or Head Official, the referee will speak to the protesting captain and confirm exactly what is being formally “protested.” When the Competition Director and/or Head Officials arrive at the court, they will first speak to the officials, 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. This requires the referee to confirm the specific issue prior to the inviting of the Competition Director and/or Head Official.

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

Procedure – When a player requests a protest, the referee will suspend play so the Competition Director and/or the Head Official can make a ruling on the protest. The Competition Director and/or Head Official's ruling will be final and binding. Immediately after the Competition 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.

#### *4.3.5 Ball Mark Challenge*

Teams will have two ball mark challenges per match. If a player believes that a ball was incorrectly called in or out by the R1, they may indicate a ball mark challenge with a hand indication of a letter "C" for challenge. When a player has challenged, the R1 will abdicate their ref stand and physically check the ball mark. If the R1 reverses the call, the team retains their challenge.

The R1 may reject the challenge if:

- The ball is clearly able to be seen from their ref stand.
- The R1 sees the ball hit the line on the way out of bounds, which means the ball mark may show out of bounds inaccurately.

The R1 will not leave their ref stand to check a ball mark unless a challenge is called.

## **4.4 Reserve Players**

Reserve players are required to be courtside and prepared to play during all matches. In the event of an injury, the relevant Reserve should immediately begin warming up in space(s) identified by event officials or the Commissioner. A Reserve player may begin warming up on the court during a medical time out if the AVP Commissioner, Head Official, or R1 give them permission to do so.

If a League player is unable to return at the conclusion of the five-minute medical time out, a Reserve player will be brought onto the team. The Reserve player will have no less than three minutes to warm up on the court after a medical time out, subject to change with regard to TV breaks and/or the discretion of the AVP Commissioner.

### *4.4.1 Returning after an Injury*

If a League player is injured on the first day of competition and replaced by a Reserve player, the League player may return to competition the next day or any future League event. A League player's return to play after an injury or absences due to an approved extenuating circumstance will ultimately be decided by the AVP Commissioner.

## **4.5 Player Sideline Areas**

Player sideline areas will be available with one player box on each side of the court, totaling 2 boxes per court.

## **4.6 Food**

The AVP will provide food for all Main Draw athletes required to play competition that day. The AVP will have food available for a certain time each day of competition. Players will be provided food only during this time. The AVP will not provide food for family members or friends. Players who are out of the event may not consume the food provided on site unless they have competed or are scheduled to compete that day.

The AVP is not responsible for specific nutritional needs. It is the responsibility of each individual to take special care to ensure that their unique nutritional needs are met.

Players taking food, water or other items out of the secured area or the courts to give to family members, friends or other third parties will be fined a minimum \$100.00 per occurrence.

Players taking food, water or other provided beverages or items off the site will be fined a minimum \$100.00 per occurrence.

## **4.7 Television**

### *4.6.1 Apparel and Signage Guidelines*

AVP League players will comply with all apparel and signage guidelines enforced by either the network or non-network broadcast companies. Notification of guidelines will be made to all players as far in advance as is practical.

## **4.8 Withdrawals/Partner Changes before a League Event**

Players may not change partners or withdraw from any of their four scheduled League events. In the case of injury (where an athlete provides a letter from a licensed physician, Injury Form from the Athlete Corner, and, if the AVP requests, submits to an examination) or an approved extenuating circumstance, a Reserve player will be selected by the AVP Commissioner and the rest of the Team and promoted to their League team.

## **4.9 Player Eligibility**

Any player shall be eligible to participate in the League (subject to verification by AVP) if such player is either (1) a U.S. citizen; or (2) otherwise granted approval by the AVP. All teams will have been approved eligible through the Heritage Series Handbook procedures found in 4.7.

## **4.10 Weather**

In the event that a portion of competition at a scheduled event 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 event.

The decision to cancel the event is solely within the discretion of the AVP Commissioner. If play is in the first or third set, the unfinished match will be deemed a tie. If one set has been completed, the winner of that set will be deemed the winner of the match.

Unfinished matches may be played the next day barring timing and venue availability. The decision to play a match or deem a tie is wholly within the discretion of the AVP Commissioner.

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

## **4.11 Discontinued Event**

### *4.10.1 Completed Match – Pending and Final*

Play will be suspended when inclement weather warrants. The AVP Commissioner will deliver the decision and will determine if and when play is to continue. When play again commences after play has previously been suspended, the match will continue at the point at which it was discontinued. If the format of the event has changed, and the interrupted match is still in the first set, when play resumes, that match will continue in the format in which it finished. If a match has completed one set, the winner of the first set may be declared the match winner.

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

## **4.12 Incomplete Event Play**

The AVP Commissioner, with consultation of AVP, will determine whether or not it is safe to continue event play because of questionable weather conditions.

### *4.12.1 When Play Stops*

When the AVP Commissioner stops play, match will be resumed from the point at which play was suspended, including score, serving team/player, and side of court.

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 AVP Commissioner properly informs players of the need for accelerated warm up requirements. In this instance, the break cannot be less than 5 minutes.

#### *4.12.2 Accelerated Event Policy*

The AVP Commissioner will have the authority to establish an accelerated event policy, where the player warm-ups and games may be shortened in an effort to finish the event. A PA announcement concerning such changes must be made by the AVP Commissioner or MC and reiterated by the court referee at the start of warm up.

### **4.13 Emergency Reschedule of Matches**

If due to unforeseen circumstances a significant period of dead time exists on a televised court, the Competition Director may request an emergency reschedule of matches. Teams will have 25 minutes from when they are notified to start this match.

### **4.14 Gender Competition Guidelines**

The AVP adheres to USA Volleyball's [Gender Competition Guidelines](#).

### **4.15 AVP League Regulations**

The AVP adheres to [USA Volleyball's](#) Regulations, with the exception of League-specific rules and regulations outlined in this Handbook.

## **5.0 PLAYER'S CONDUCT, RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **5.1 Player Responsibilities**

#### *5.1.1 General Conduct*

All AVP players shall at all times conduct themselves with due regard to social conventions and decency at and away from AVP Events, and will not commit any unlawful act or become involved in any situation or occurrence which degrades them in society, or which brings them into public disrepute, contempt, scandal or ridicule or which shocks, insults or offends the community or reflects unfavorably upon the AVP. AVP players who violate this clause shall be subjected to fines, suspension and/or expulsion from the AVP.

#### *5.1.2 Health*



Players agree to report to League Events in good health and physical condition, and prepared to play.

If a player becomes injured or ill during the League and is unable to compete in one or more of the League Events they are scheduled to play, the player shall be required to present a medical release form signed by a licensed medical practitioner to the AVP in order to be released from contractual obligations and/or avoid fines. AVP reserves the right to have an AVP physician examine the player to verify such injury or illness.

### *5.1.3 Knowledge of the Rules*

Each player shall maintain a comprehensive knowledge of the AVP League Regulations and FIVB (or USAV) Beach Volleyball Rules of Play. Players shall also maintain knowledge of the player's standards and policies as outlined in this League Handbook and as discussed at any coordinated event meetings.

### *5.1.4 Player Area*

The player area 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. Food and beverages are for players, AVP approved medical staff, and coaches only. Players removing food or beverages for parties other than players are subject to fines.

### *5.1.5 Player Apparel*

AVP players will comply with all apparel and signage guidelines enforced by the AVP and/or network television, non-network television, or streaming broadcast companies. Notification of guidelines will be made to all players as far in advance as is practical.

All players participating in the League will be required to wear:

- Solid black bottoms free of any sponsor logos, names, or endorsement marks, except for the brand or manufacturer of the clothing.
- A uniform top created and distributed by the AVP that will represent their Team logo and colors.

For the 2024 season, players will be allowed to wear their own sunglasses and hats. The AVP reserves the right to add their logo to athletes' hats at the cost of the AVP. Players are allowed up to two tattoos representing sponsor logos, names, or endorsement. The manufacturer's logo must be 20cm or less, and the sponsor logo 77cm or less.

### *5.1.6 Athlete Accessories*

- Athletes are authorized to use the following accessories:
  - Visor / cap / hat / head band.
  - Sunglasses.
  - One (1) watch.

- A total of 3 items can be used as follows:
  - Temporary tattoos (max 10cm width) or armbands (max 10cm width).
  - A combination of the two may be worn, but only one item on each arm.
  - Footwear and/or athletic socks (with the Referee's approval).
- Injury Prevention Devices:
  - Compression pads are approved but must be of the same color design of the uniform. Teams using compression pads must be uniform in color/design for all athletes.
  - No padding is allowed in the forearm, as it provides advantages to the athletes' performances.
  - Neutral colors, black or white are acceptable.
  - Gloves are not accepted, except in case of medical necessity, especially in the case of skin disease.
- Athletes are responsible for providing their own accessories.

#### *5.1.7 AVP Mailing Address*

A player may not use any AVP mailing list for personal or business related matters.

## **5.2 Team Default (“No-Show”)**

A team is considered to have defaulted on their commitment to play if they do not arrive to the League Event within 30 minutes of their scheduled competition time. If one or both players are not present 30 minutes before their scheduled match time, the match will result in an immediate forfeit, at the discretion of the Commissioner.

If a player or team does not show up to the venue at all, a Reserve Player or team may take their place, at the discretion of the Commissioner.

AVP reserves the right to change match start times at its discretion. AVP will give as much advance notice as possible, but athletes are responsible for checking [avp.com/brackets](http://avp.com/brackets). Players should arrive at the event at least thirty minutes prior to the scheduled start of competition each day.

In the event of an unapproved “No Show”, the player(s) shall be subject to the following:

- The defaulting team’s players will be sanctioned with a Default Fine of \$1000.00 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 competing in the next League event. If the fine payment is not received, the No Show player(s) will be replaced by a reserve team. The fine may be deducted from previous appearance fee payments if they have not been paid out.
- If a player(s) defaults for a second time, the player(s) will be removed from the League by the AVP Commissioner.
- Teams who default will not receive appearance money for the entire weekend.

- The above applies to reserve players, as well, who must arrive 30 minutes prior to the first scheduled match of the day.

### **5.3 Competition Conduct/Fines**

A player is subject to a red card penalty<sup>1</sup> at the referee's discretion for committing the following violations:

- Players shall not persistently address the official with regard to decisions during play.
- Players shall not make derogatory remarks about or to an official, either on or off the court.
- Players shall not make personal or derogatory remarks about or to opponents or spectators.
- Players shall not taunt an opponent on or off the court of play during a match.
- Players shall not use profanity.
- Players shall not kick or hit the ball out of playing area during play, during a side change or after the game.
- Players shall not intentionally damage event equipment, hang on the net, kick banners or throw any objects.
- Players shall not physically assault or intimidate officials, opponents, AVP staff or spectators.
- Players shall not act in a manner that intentionally slows the game.
- Physical assault of any referee, event official or any other event participant by any player, may result in automatic disqualification, a fine and immediate disqualification from participation in any future sanctioned events 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.
- 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.

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.

#### *5.3.1 Drug Control and Testing*

The AVP does not support the use of banned or restricted substances or methods for the purposes of performance enhancement. Players shall not use any illegal drugs during competition or while representing the AVP. To see the list of banned and restricted substances, please consult the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) Guide to Prohibited Classes of Substances and Prohibited Methods of Doping available online at

---

<sup>1</sup> A red card is a penalty that results in an automatic fine of \$100, which will be deducted, from appearance fee. 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.

the USADA website. Additional USADA materials will be handed out separately to all players. Medically necessary medicines can be petitioned to AVP if a player finds them to be in conflict with this list.

All athletes participating in AVP League Events shall be subject to drug testing by the USADA at League Events on a random basis.

Penalties shall be imposed in the discretion of AVP for positive tests for prohibited substances and/or prohibited methods of doping. In addition, for the use, condoning the use, or counseling the use of banned substances and/or banned methods of doping:

- First violation – Up to a one (1) year suspension from all AVP activities.
- Second violation – Up to a three (3) year suspension from all AVP activities.
- Third violation – Lifetime suspension from all AVP activities.
- FIVB restrictions, sanctions and fines will be applied to those players found in violation while competing internationally. The AVP reserves the right to apply its own fines and suspensions for violations at such international events as determined by the above rules.

### *5.3.2 Gambling and other Unsportsmanlike Conduct*

All participants (players, coaches, officials, and management) in events 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 \$2,000.00 and shall also be subject to suspension and possible permanent expulsion from the AVP:

- A player, referee, or match administrator shall not bet money or anything else of value on a formal volleyball competition in which the player is a competitor or where their own performance might influence the result upon which stakes are placed.
- 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.
- A player must report promptly to the AVP any known or suspected violations by anyone of the rules enumerated in subsections (1) and (2) above.
- Players shall not gamble in any manner related to AVP pro beach volleyball.

### *5.3.3 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, 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 or physical 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 males to sexually harass females or other males, and for females to sexually harass males or other females. 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.

#### *5.3.4 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.

#### *5.3.5 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.

#### *5.3.6 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 Director of Player Development.

## **5.4 Disciplinary Action Continued – Fines, Penalties, Suspension, Expulsion**

#### *5.4.1 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 a player.

#### *5.4.2 Player's Opportunity to Address Disciplinary Action and/or Air Grievances*

If a player believes they have been unfairly disciplined or has a general grievance, the player must first contact the Director of Player Development to seek clarification of the relevant rule or guidance with regard to the grievance. The Director of Player Development, in their discretion, may then discuss the matter with the AVP, except in instances involving infractions related to section 4F of the Player Agreement. The AVP will in good faith consider the matter, and render its opinion or decision in a timely manner.

#### *5.4.3 Payment of Fines - Payment Deadline*

All imposed fines will be deducted from appearance 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**

General Inquiries: [contact@avp.com](mailto:contact@avp.com)

Participant Matters: [avplayers@avp.com](mailto:avplayers@avp.com)

Points Inquiries: [points@avp.com](mailto:points@avp.com)

Director of Player Development: [kim.schuermann@avp.com](mailto:kim.schuermann@avp.com)

## Appendix A : **COACHING PROCEDURES AND POLICY**

### **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 event. However, any AVP team is limited to only one designated coach at any particular AVP League event, unless otherwise cleared by the AVP Commissioner.

#### **Registration and Payment**

A prospective coach can **only** register as a coach online prior to an AVP League event. The charge to coach per League event on the AVP is \$75 for one event or \$300 for the entire season, including the Championship. Payment can be made upon registration at coaching link provided. Coaches must also be a Silver or Gold AVP member and complete AVP Coach Orientation Course.

#### **Credentials**

Each accredited coach will pick up a credential from the box office booth at each event. The credential is to be worn and visible at all times while you are on site. Coaches are not to let anyone other than them wear their credential at any time.

#### **Player and Referee Area**

Coaches will always handle themselves in a thoroughly professional manner while in the player area. It is never appropriate for a coach to be in the referee area.

#### **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. Filming must be for coaching/scou

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

Coaches found to be utilizing video or photography content captured at AVP events for proprietary, commercial or other purposes outside of scouting and training will be subject to disciplinary fines, suspensions and possible expulsions from future events.

### **III. COACHING POLICY DURING A MATCH**



## **Dress / Appearance**

- A coach **must** wear their credential while coaching a match.
- A coach will at all times wear minimally a shirt and shorts / bathing suit bottom.

## **Behavior**

- A coach may not address the Competition 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 event 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 event site.
- A coach will not abuse (verbally or physically) event officials, players (their players or opposing players), other coaches, spectators, or other persons within the precincts of the event 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 AVP Commissioner due to the misconduct of their coach.
- In circumstances that are deemed flagrant or particularly injurious to the success of the event, the AVP Commissioner may at their discretion order the coach to be removed from the site of the match or the precincts of the event 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 their AVP coaching credential revoked by the AVP Commissioner or Competition Director for a term to be determined by the AVP, including permanently, due to conduct the AVP determines is detrimental to the AVP or the sport.

## 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 event 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 AVP equipment or other object within the confines of the event 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 event 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 event site. Profanity in this instance shall be any words which are commonly understood to be profane and are audible to the AVP Commissioner, Competition 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 event site. Such an obscenity would constitute a physical signal by a player with their 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 event site.
- Violation shall subject a player to a fine of up to \$500 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 \$500.
- **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 \$500.
- **Verbal Threat**
  - A player shall not overtly or subtly verbally threaten an official, opponent, spectator or other person within the confines of the event site.
  - Violation shall subject a player to a fine of up to \$1,000.
- **Physical Threat**
  - A player shall not by their 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 event 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 event, 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 event 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 \$5,000. In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a event, 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 \$5,000. In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a event, 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 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 or AVP Events.
- Violation will subject a player to a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or suspension from the AVP 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 or AVP events.
  - Violation will subject a player to a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or suspension from the AVP for a minimum period of seven days and a maximum period of one year.

